スピリッツ
YOUNG
SUNDAY
COMICS

おやすみプンプン ⑬

浅野いにお

小学館

おやすみプンプン⑬

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スピリッツ
YOUNG
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GOODNIGHT PUNPUN ⑬

ASANO INIO

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GOODNIGHT PUNPUN 13

ASANO INIO

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

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Chapter 135

"If you'll believe in me,
I'll protect you from all harm."

STAND BACK, EVERY-ONE!
WHERE'S THE FIRE TRUCK!?
IT'S DAN-GEROUS HERE!
PLEASE STAND FARTHER BACK!
AGHHHH!
WHHYYYY!?
NOOOOOO!

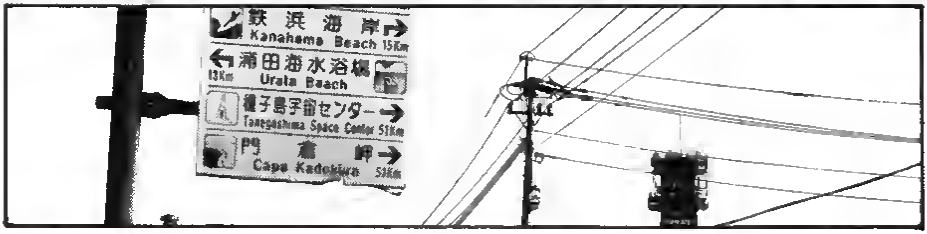
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF...
...Nanjou.
You still awake?

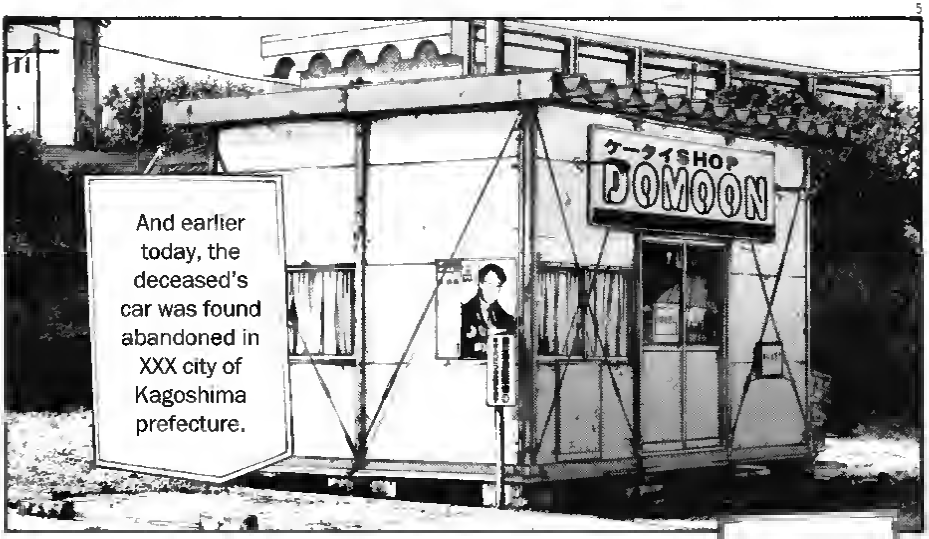
I think I see smoke...
Oh...
Go to sleep... You work too hard...

Continuing on with our headlines,
Is our top story of the day so far.

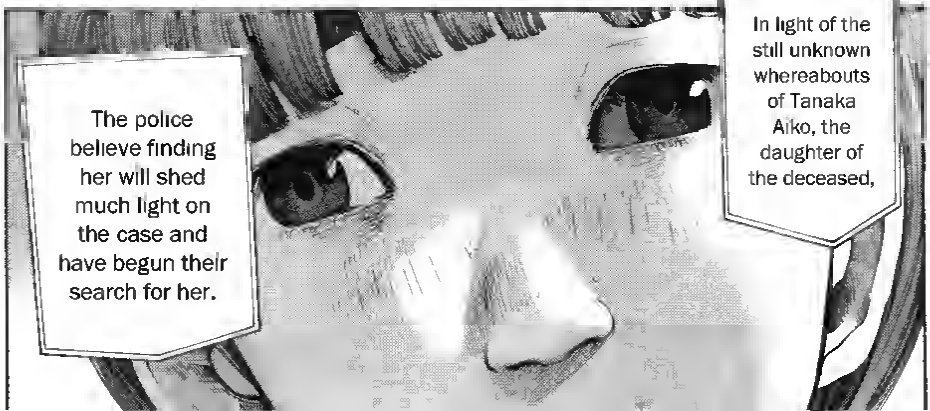
Along with signs of strangulation, there were several stab wounds on her abdominal region, leading police to treat it as a possible murder case.

According to the police, the discovered body was identified as the 41 year-old Tanaka Mitsuko, a resident of XXX city of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area.





And earlier today, the deceased's car was found abandoned in XXX city of Kagoshima prefecture.

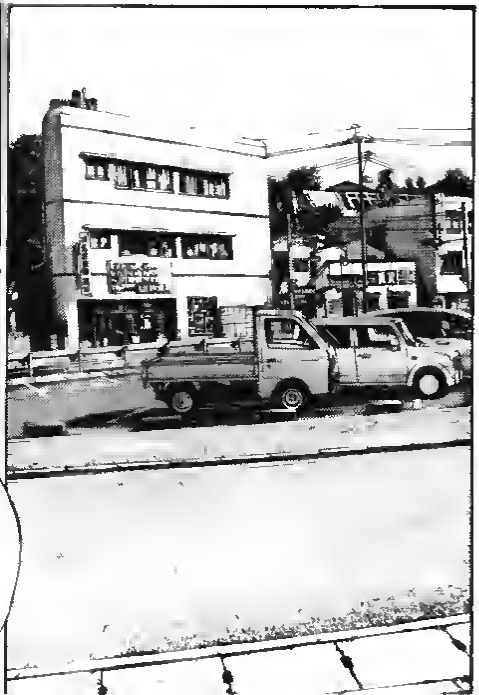


The police believe finding her will shed much light on the case and have begun their search for her.

In light of the still unknown whereabouts of Tanaka Aiko, the daughter of the deceased,

June 30, Noon

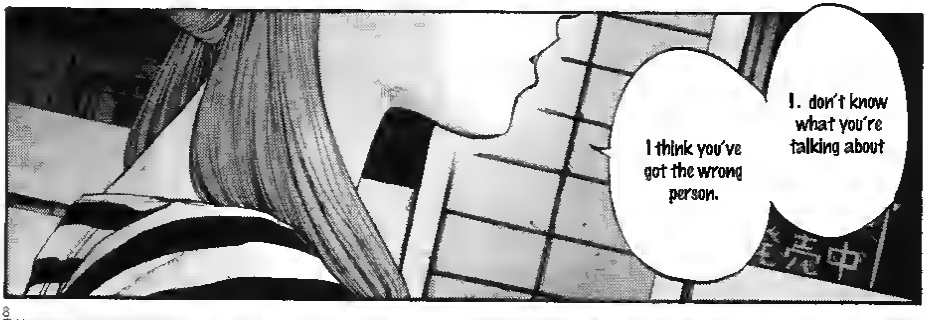
"Let's just calm down and think about it..."



Umm...
Excuse me but,
You're Orihara Aiko... Right?

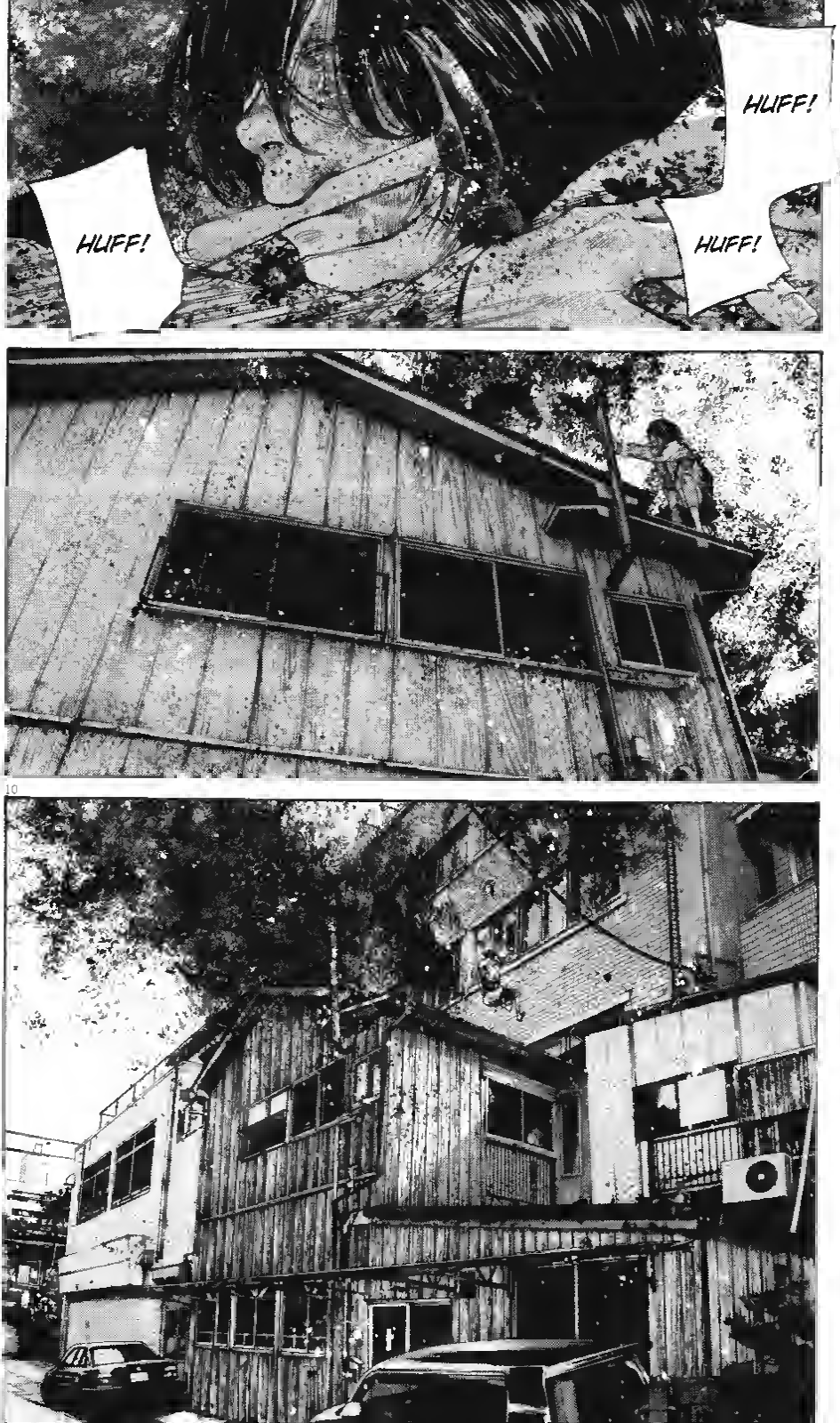
I've, uhh... been quite a fan since your "Young Man Grand Prix" magazine days...
The store might not be the best place so, I... Well here I am.
I know I'm coming across as a rather obsessed fanboy, but...
You know, I was there for your Cherries Club debut event. Front row, even. Do you remember!?

Ahaha...
Sorry, I'll stop with the private questions. I'll of course keep quiet about your boyfriend as well.
I am a professional fan, after all...
The long break you've taken doesn't mean that you've retired, does it?
...You are still keeping in touching with Yuzuki from your same agency, right?


I. don't know what you're talking about
I think you've got the wrong person.

The form was signed with your real name, Tanaka Aiko...
I mean, back in the store just now.
Huh?
Oh c'mon! You're joking, right!?
"Like she just said..."

"Read the mood and get lost, you dumbass."
You know, I...
I just found a job and a place to live...
"...Even so, we can't stay any longer on this island, Aiko."

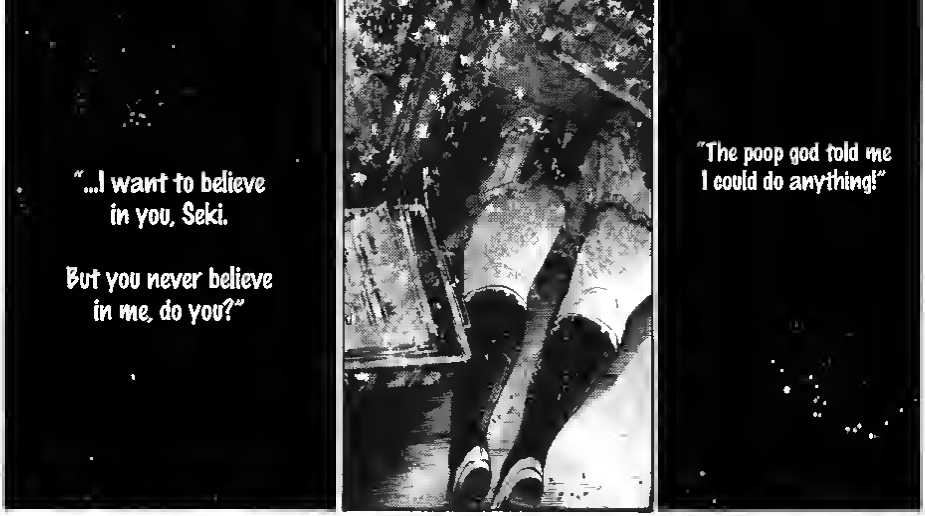

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!

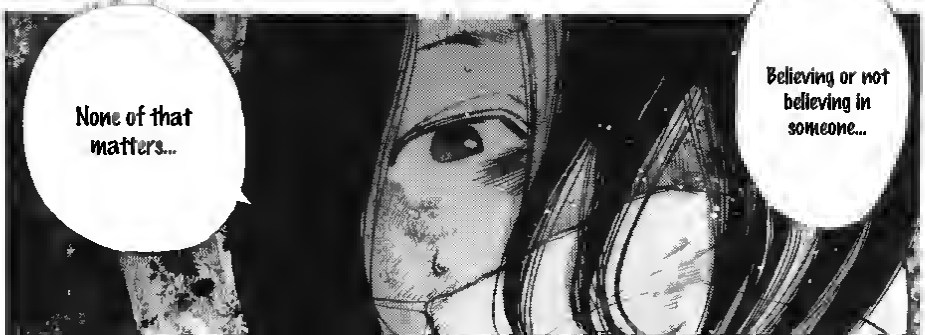
"Seki, you always say you're doing this and that all for my own sake but...

In the end, you only think about your own self..."

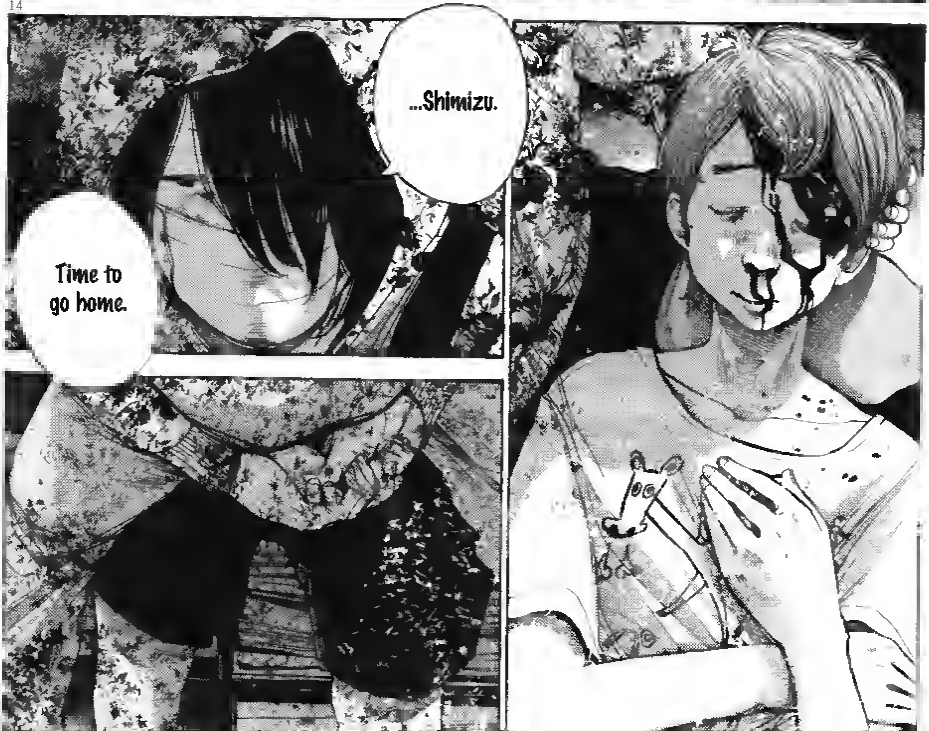
Where's Shimizu...?

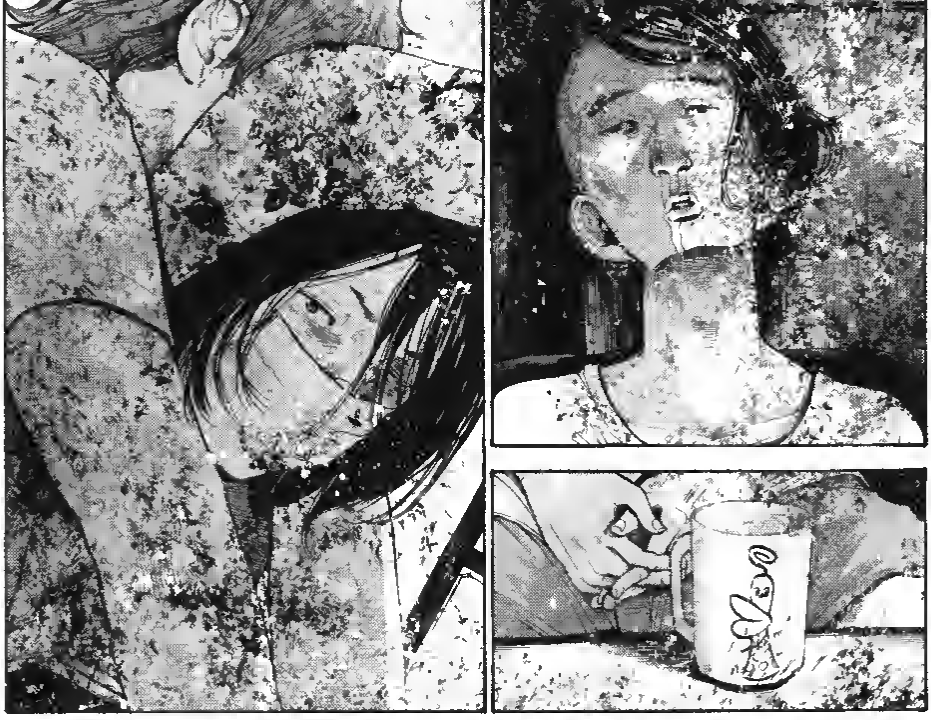
You should...
HURRY UP AND GET OUTTA HERE!

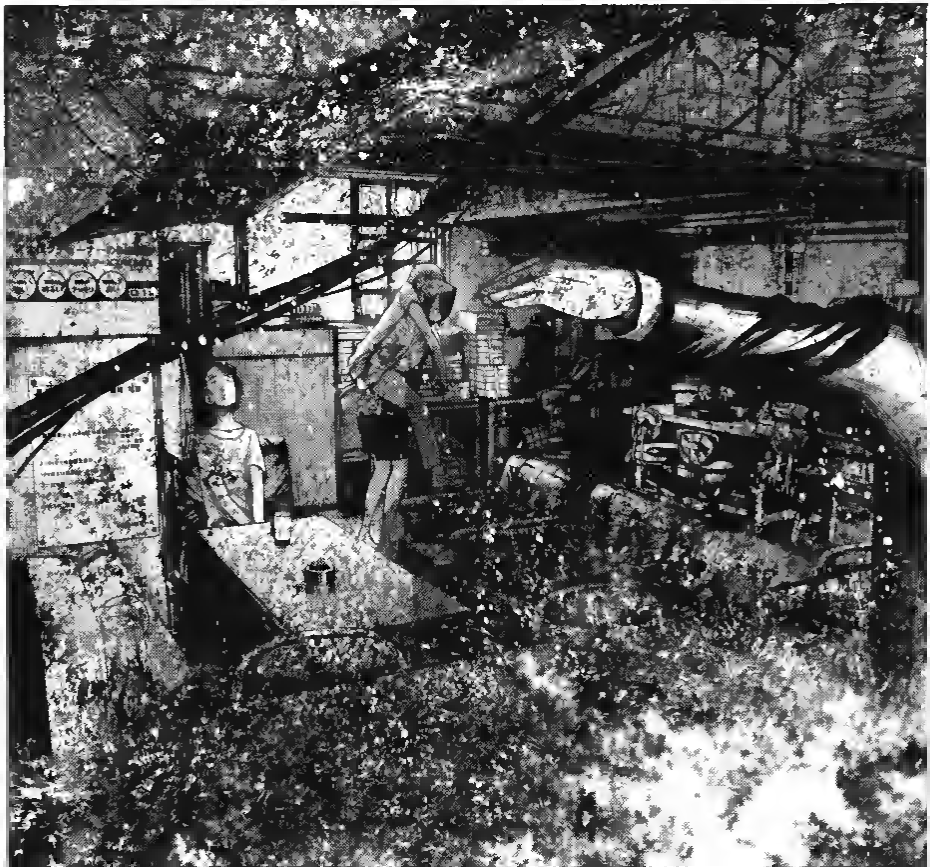

"...I want to believe in you, Seki.
But you never believe in me, do you?"
"The poop god told me I could do anything!"

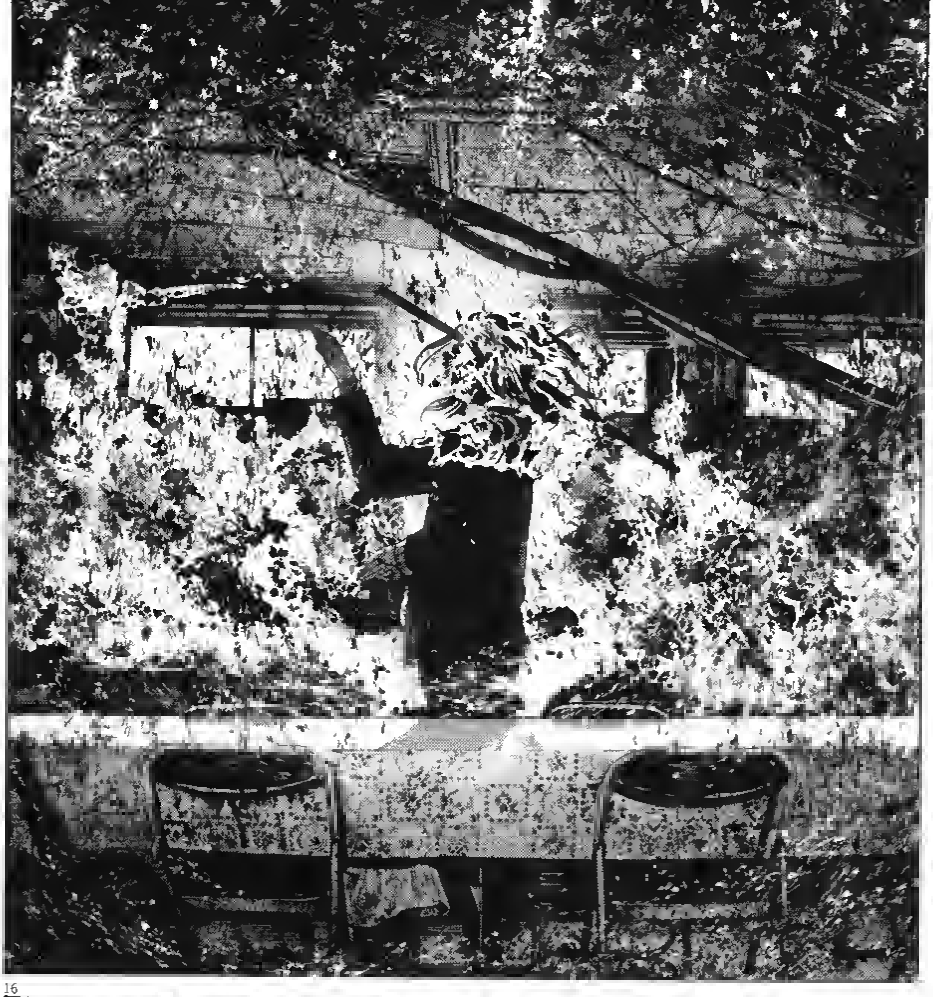

None of that matters...
Believing or not believing in someone...

Just look at me...
Just with my own will,
I can do anything I set my mind to...


...Shimizu.
Time to go home.







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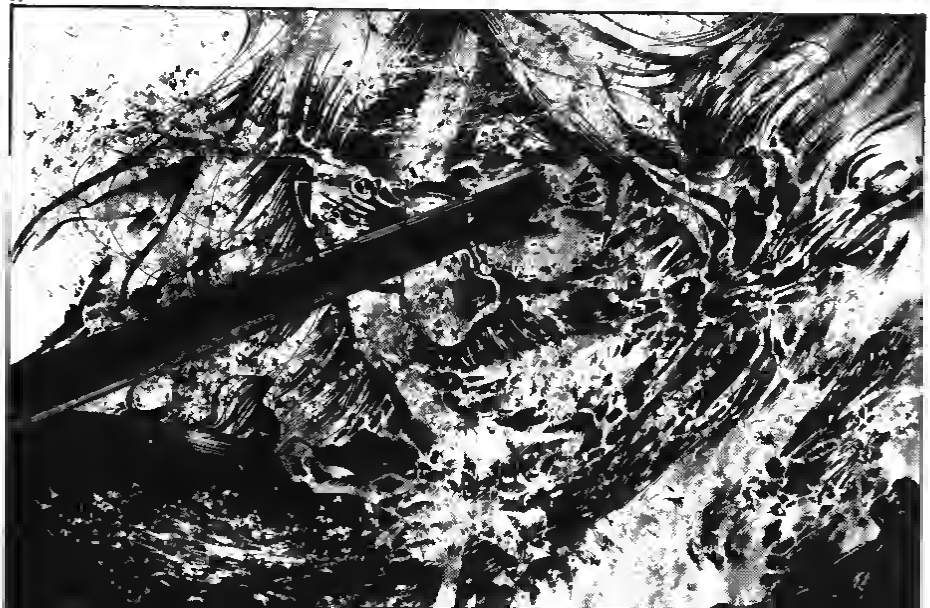

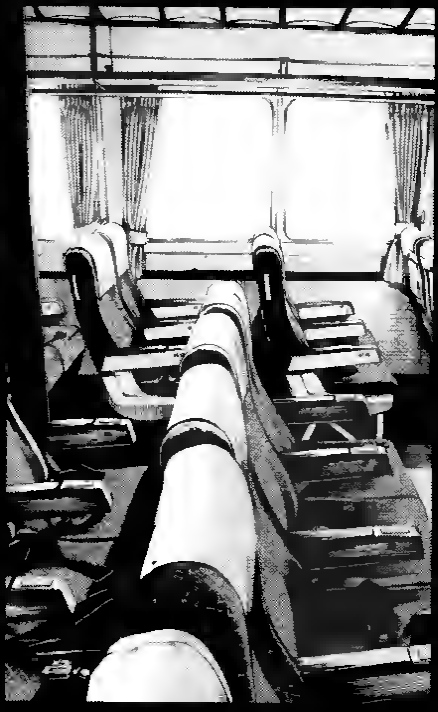

...Lovers,

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My actions and these words are perhaps but a single musical note on the line engraved on to the ever perpetuous Akashic records.

And yet I wait.
...Yes, I wait in anticipation, despite how foolish it may seem.
I wait for the coming of a completely harmonized new world.

Even if this body of mine rots away, forgotten by all,
I believe that the vibrations of my magical warriors
will reverberate to you all.

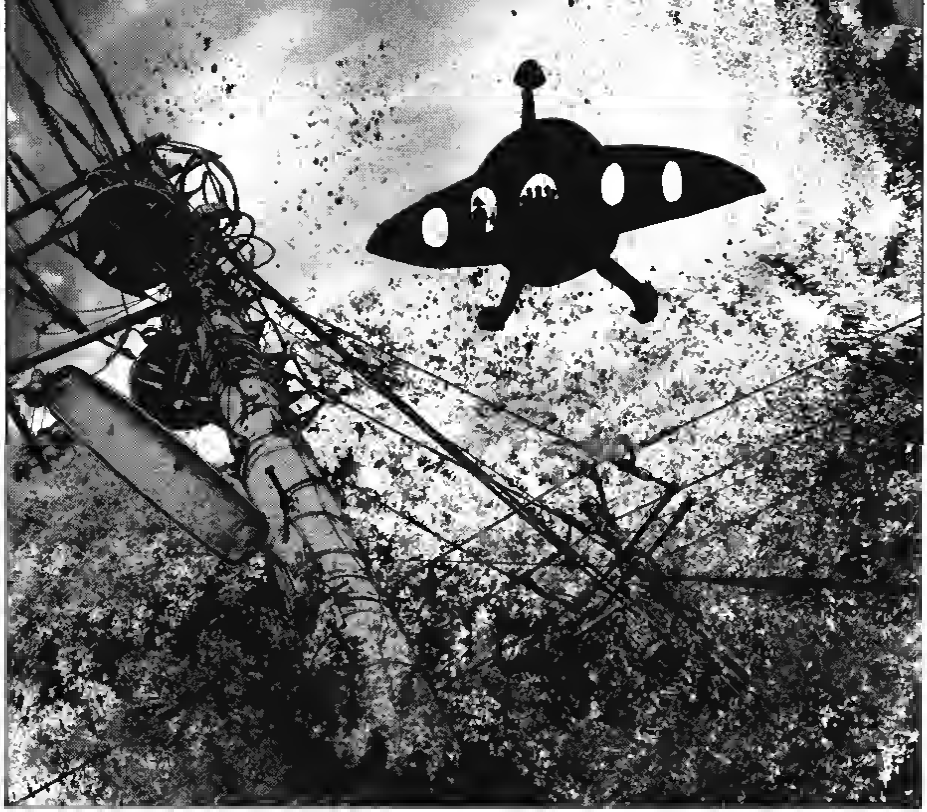
Even if this world were to return eventually.
...I do so because I have lived for this single moment.

...Now then,
It is time for the most sublime vibration...
Yes, that, in other words.

Yippee!

GOOD VIBRATIONS

WE'VE SECURED 2 SURVIVORS!
BRING THE STRETCHERS!
PLEASE STAND FURTHER BACK, EVERYONE!
HEY, YOU!
HOW MANY MORE ARE INSIDE!?



"Once we get back to Kagoshima, let's go to Osaka.

It'll be easier to blend in crowds in a large city..."

"Aiko."

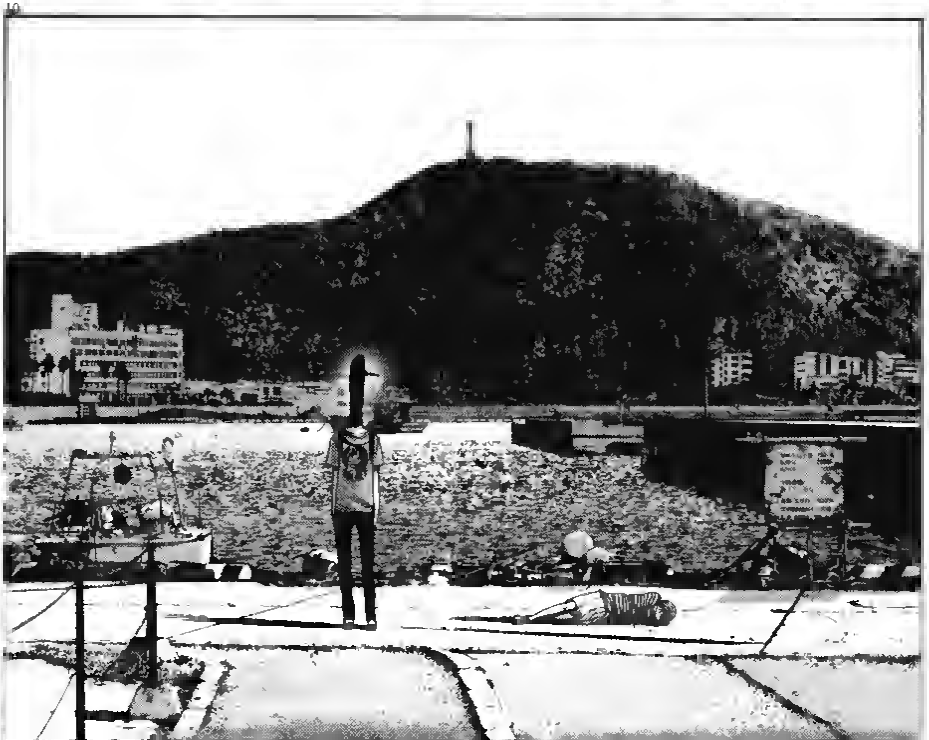
PANT

PANT

PANT

I don't want to go,
Anywhere with a lot of people any...

more...



"...Aiko, you're burning up."
I tried taking the pills,
But they won't work anymore...
"...I think you really ought to go to the hospital at least once."
...If I did that,
I'd get caught, you know?
Haha...
I see how it is...
You actually want me to be caught...

Hm?

Nishinozawa's quite a ways from here, you realize?

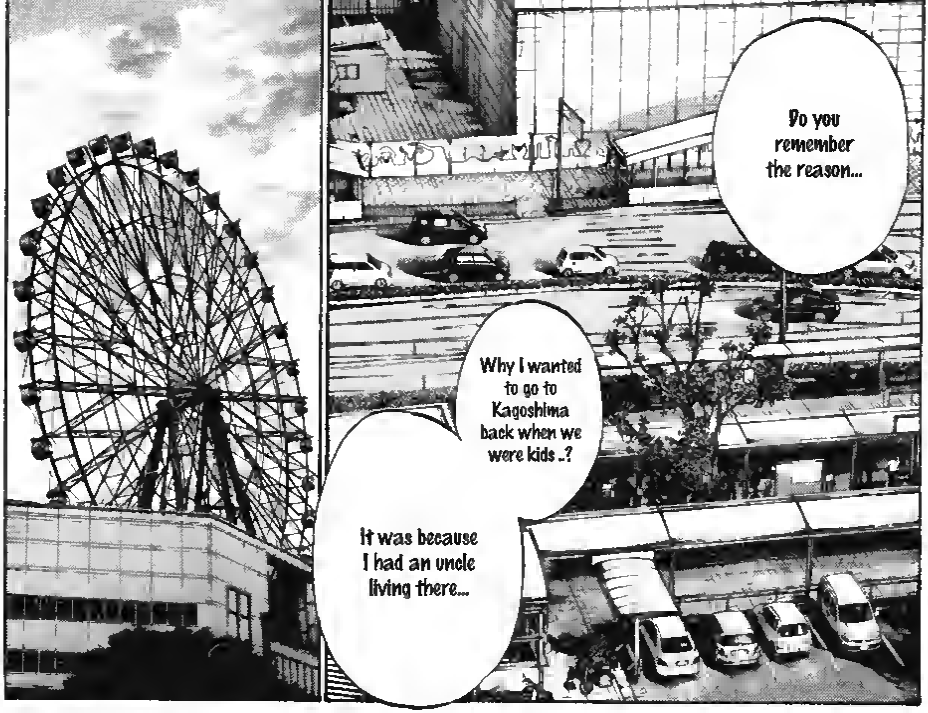
What might you be planning to do by heading deep into the mountains at this time of the day?

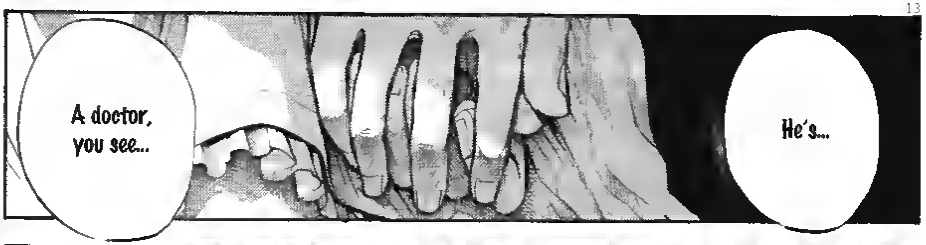
Shall I hurry...?

You seem ill...

I do have a plastic bag.

So if you feel like throwing up, please do tell me...

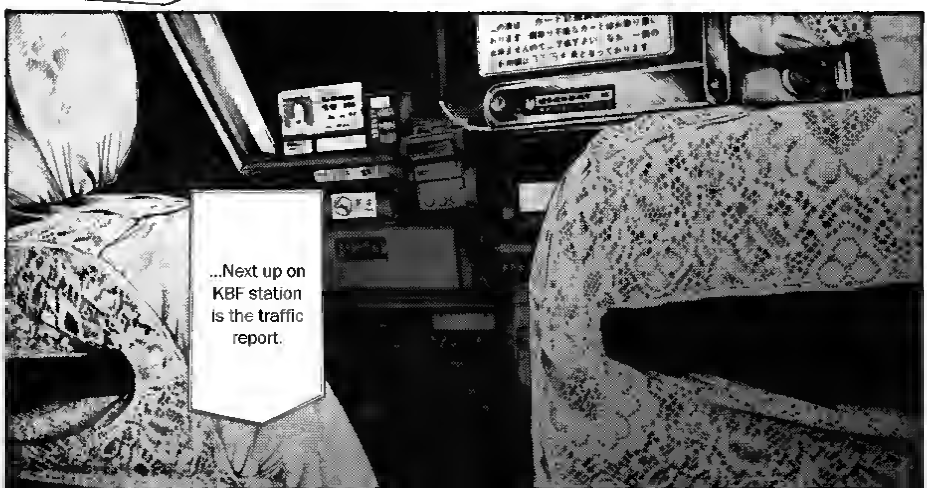

Do you remember the reason...
Why I wanted to go to Kagoshima back when we were kids..?
It was because I had an uncle living there...


A doctor, you see...
He's...

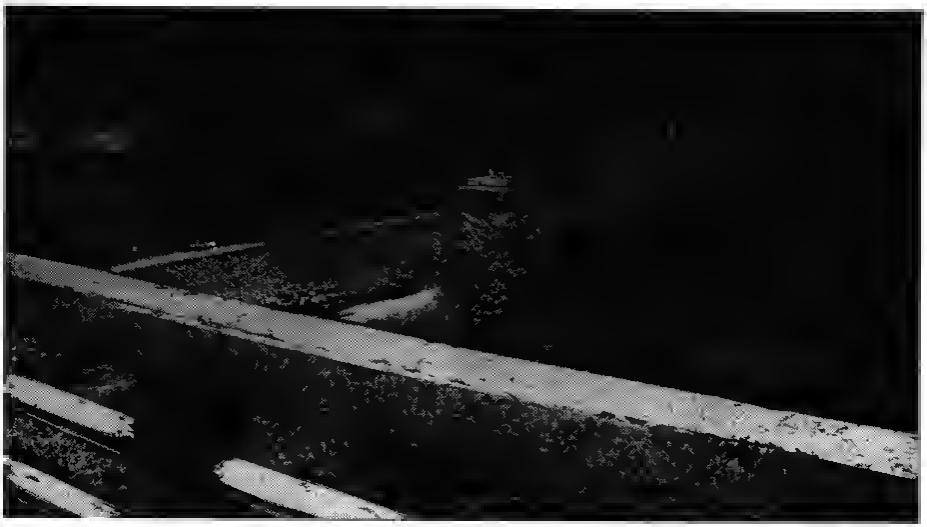
鹿児島中央駅
KAGOSHIMA CHUO STATION

And earlier today, the deceased's car was found abandoned in XXX city of Kagoshima prefecture.

The police believe finding her will shed much light on the case and have begun their search for her.
In light of the still unknown whereabouts of Tanaka Aiko, the daughter of the deceased,


...Next up on KBF station is the traffic report.

Umm... We're almost there at Nishinozawa but I'm feeling very fatigued.
So I'm going to take a slight detour and take a short break at a local convenience store.
I'll stop the meter for the time being...
Cost: 15240円



"...Aiko, I don't think this is the right choice. Relying on a family member in a case like this is too dangerous..."

Then...

Do you have any other good ideas...?

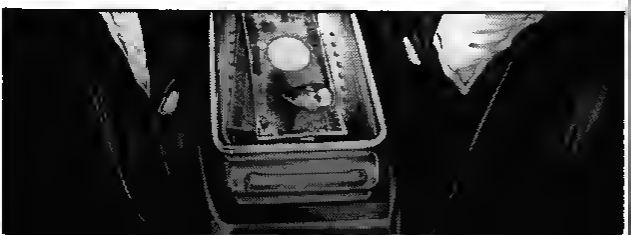
Because I sure don't, Punpun...

...My uncle's a good person.

I'm sure if we explain our circumstances he'll...

"...Just because he's a relative, do you really think he'll help someone who suddenly barges into his home with stab wounds without asking any further questions?

"If he's a good person, then that's all the more reason why he won't take our side..."



"He might have caught onto who you are...

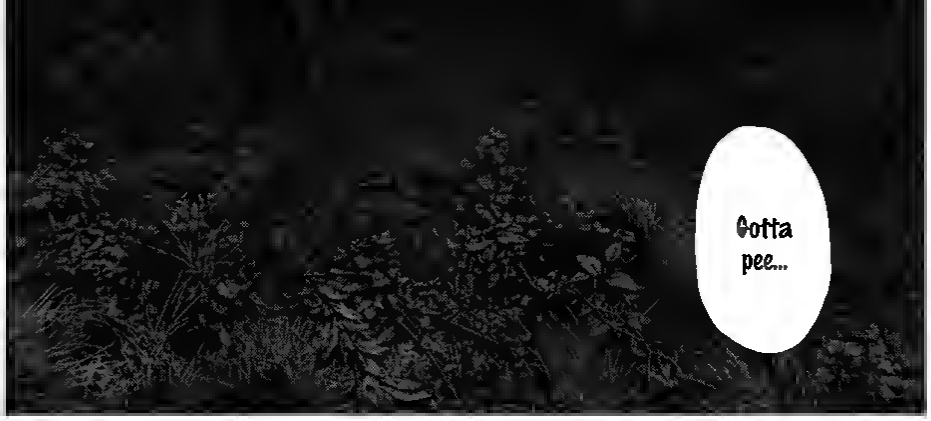
If he already reported us, then...

HUFF...
HUFF...
MN,
NGH...
U...
UU...

"...Aiko, hide."

"Let's get further away from the roads..."

2

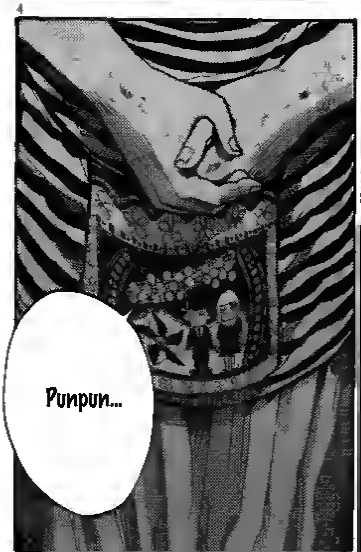

Gotta pee...

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

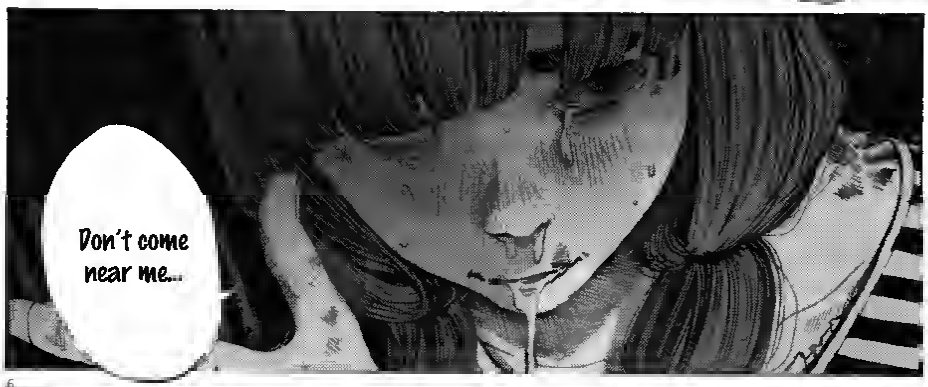
4



"If we can find a river, then we can head down it to find a village. I saw it on tv once."

"...Aiko?"
What're you...
Really thinking about...?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
NGH...
"Sorry... It's my fault for pushing you so hard. Let's take a short break..."
UHD!

GALAXY
...Don't.


Don't come near me...

...I realized just in the knick of time.
You've realized that I'm just a nuisance.
Since your name wasn't reported by the news, haven't you?

You led me here deep into the forest.
So you can kill me and bury my remains, didn't you?

8

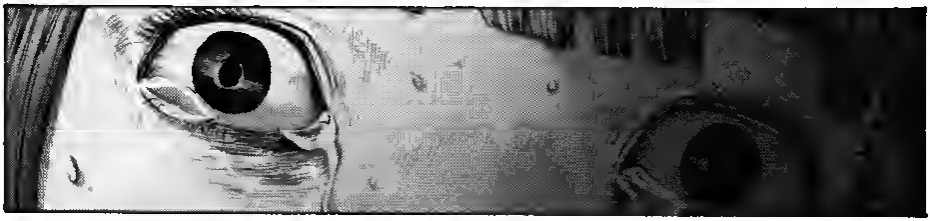
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF

HUFF...
HUFF
HUFF...

"...If you can't believe in me,
then just what can you go on believing in?

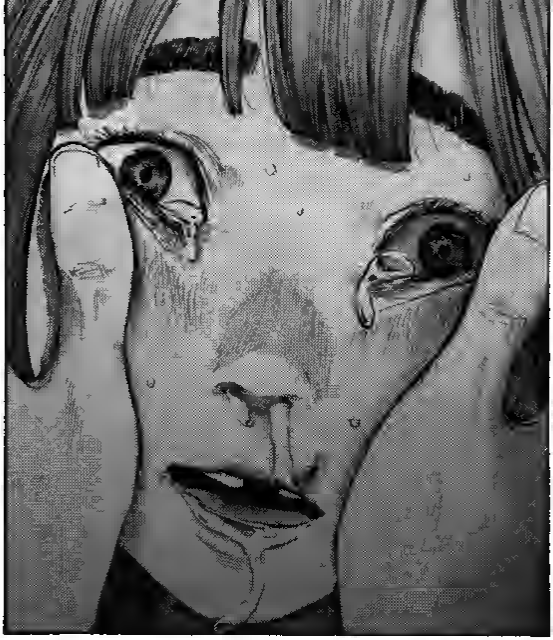
"...Didn't I promise you?
That I'd protect you no matter what."



"Believe in me."

Novel, See Great Sk

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF



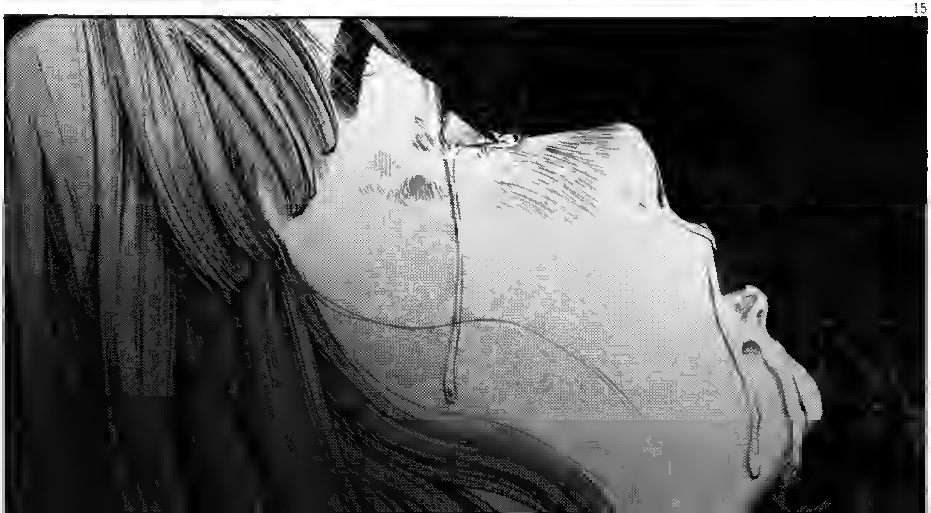
"You really are
such a dumbshit..."

"But it's fine...
It's very fine, Aiko."

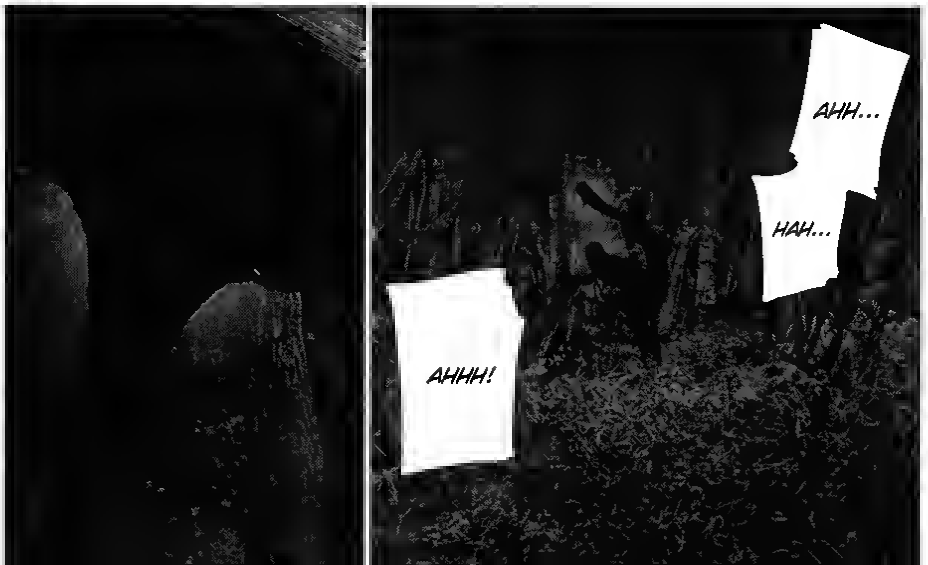
"That's precisely why I may have been saved by you..."

"Soon... I'm certain we'll be able to understand each other completely."

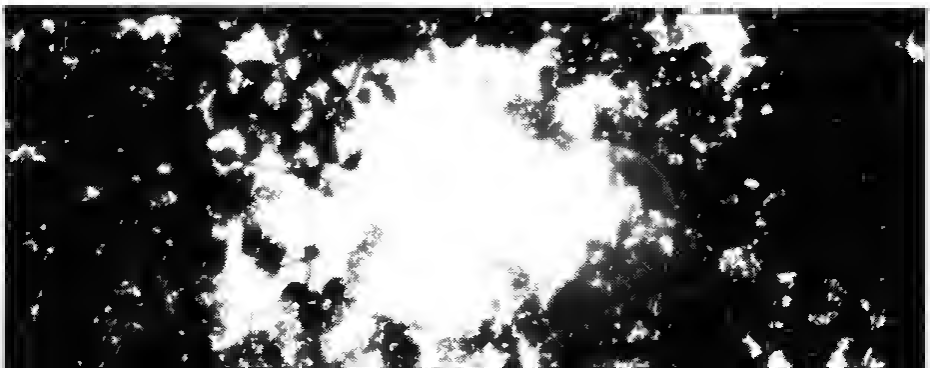
"It's because you try to think,
that we can't truly understand each other..."



NN!
NNF!
MNN!


AHH...
HAH...
AHHH!

AHHH!



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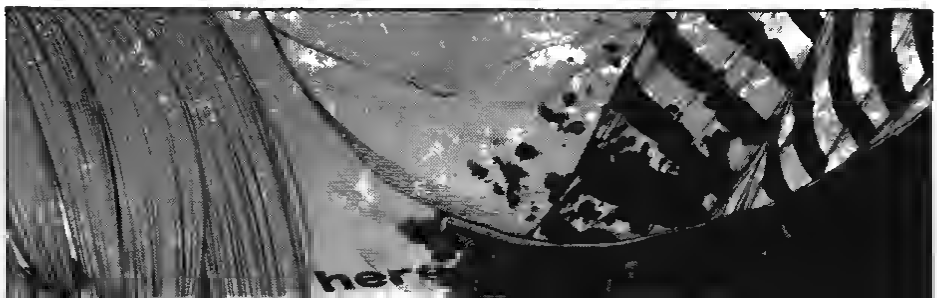
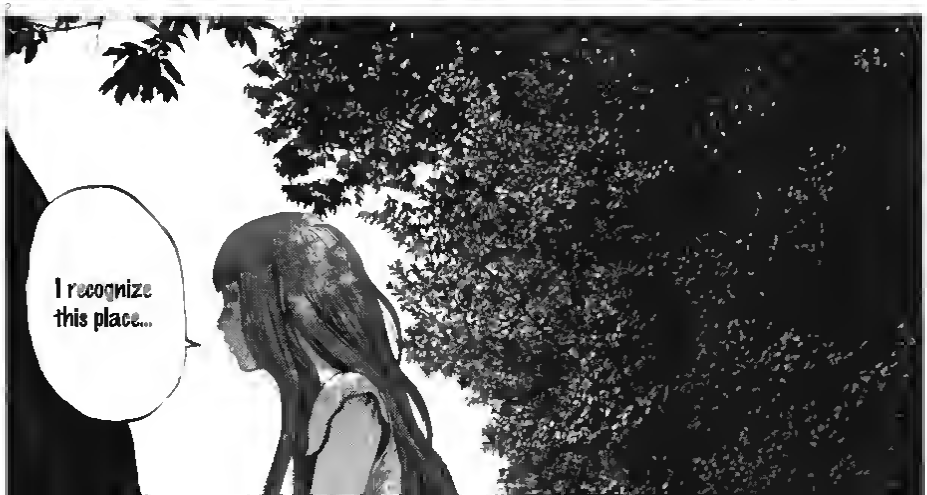


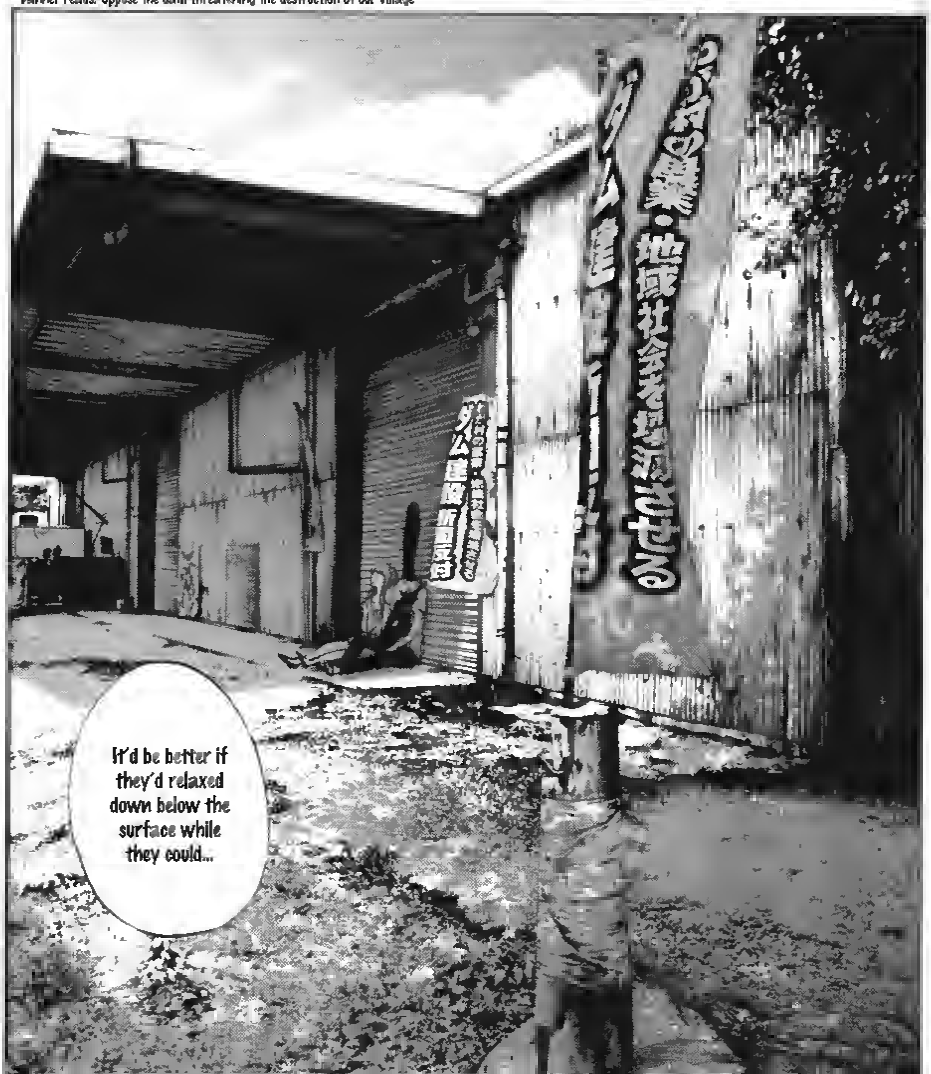
Ah-

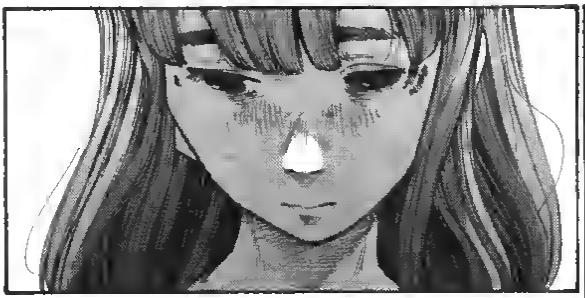

I recognize this place...

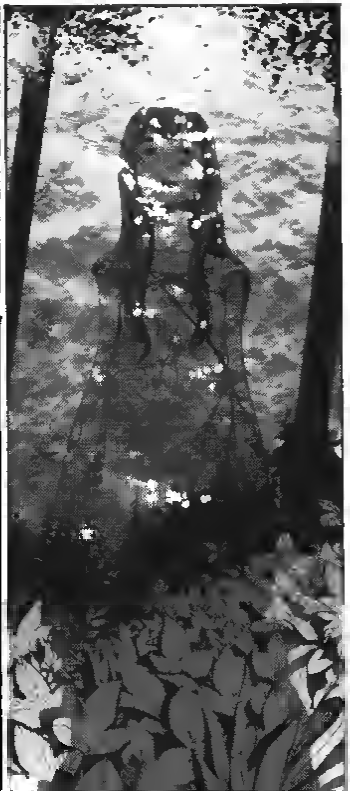
"Do you remember where the hospital is?
Think so...
"If your uncle happens to take unfavourable actions against us... Well, one reaps what one sows, as they say..."

To whom it may concern:
In response to the town redevelopment plans due to municipal consolidation, this hospital/clinic will be moved to the city. Thank you for your support over the years.
Orihara Clinic
There's no one.
Living in this town anymore...

*Banner reads: Oppose the dam threatening the destruction of our village

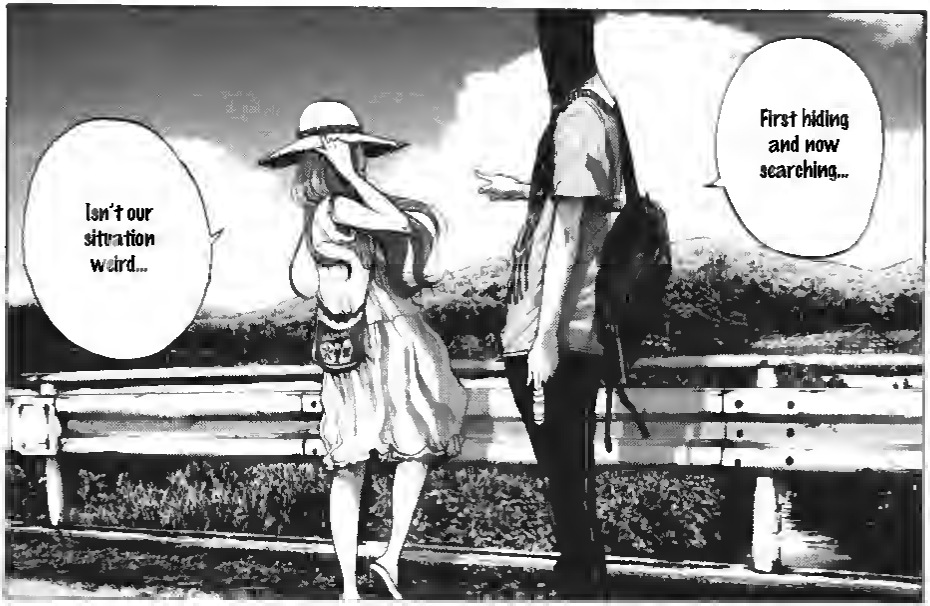


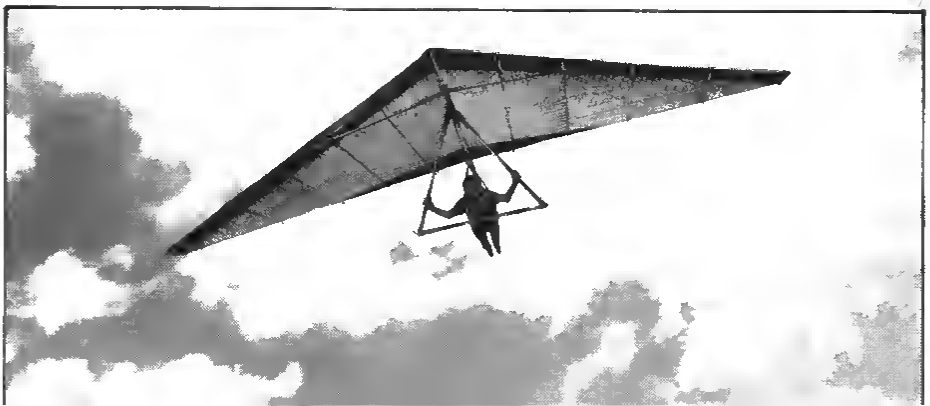




"Aiko."

"I think there may be people living over there. Look."



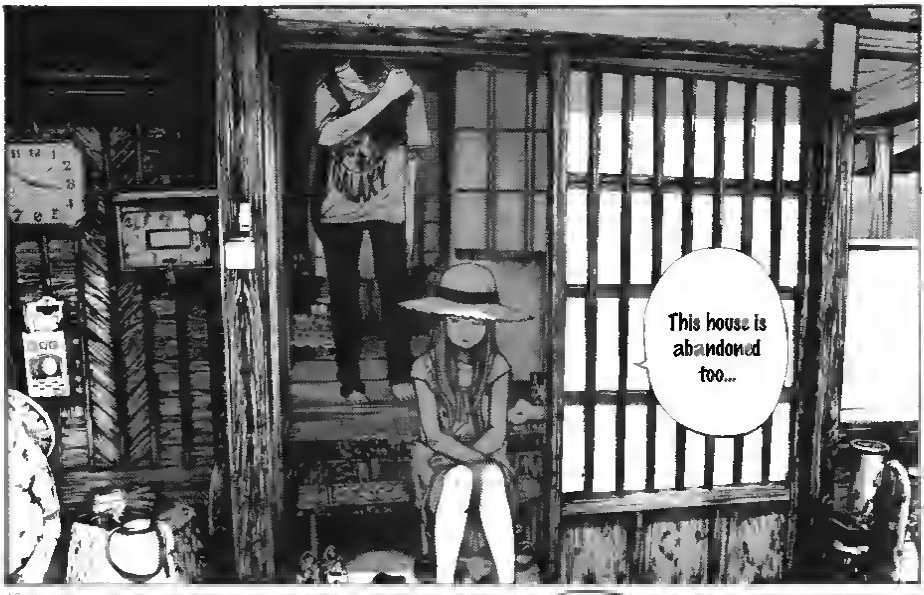


It's slowly...
Dipping down...

...No matter how hard it struggles,
It'll always come back down where it belongs.
...You said I no longer needed to think about anything.
To be able to say something like that... You've gotten almost too tough
As for me, on the other hand,
I'm a far more ordinary girl than the girl of your expectations...

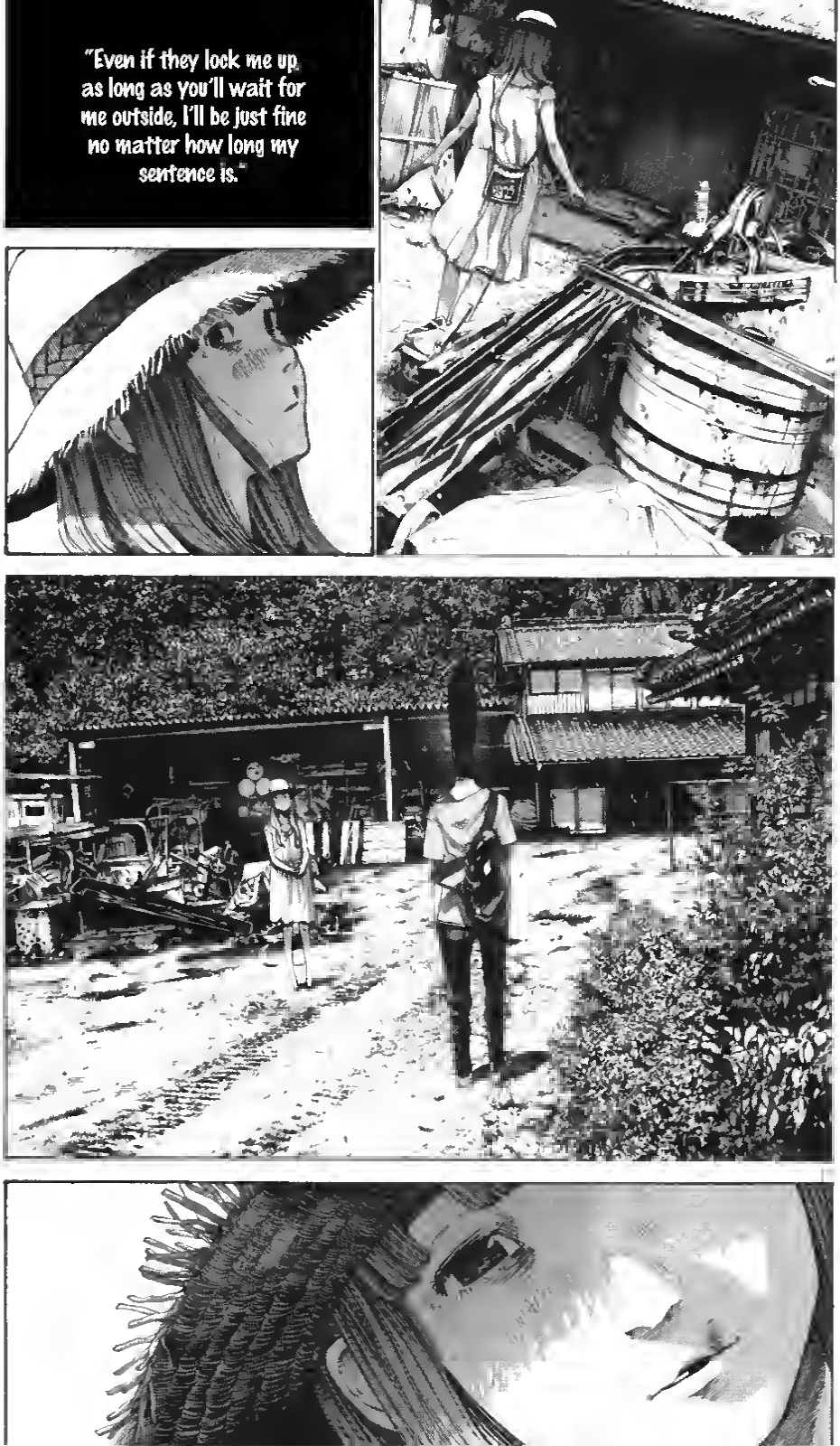
After I take a short rest,
I think I'll go search for a police station instead of a hospital..

I wonder why,
I'm feeling lonelier and lonelier as time starts to pass...?



"...Come up inside. It's pretty cool inside, you know."

"...If you turn yourself in, I'll cover for everything you've done. You don't have to worry about a thing, Aiko."


"Even if they lock me up, as long as you'll wait for me outside, I'll be just fine no matter how long my sentence is."

"Did you say that stuff about killing your mother just to stop me from committing suicide...?"

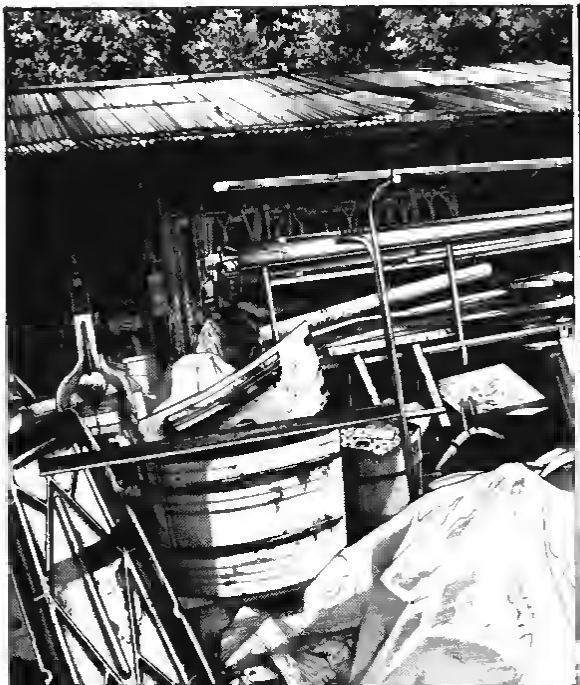
On that night we saw those falling stars as we came back from the abandoned factory.
I wished for both of us to fall in love with each other...
My wish came true...
It's amazing.
How such a happiness could possibly exist...

...I wonder
If we'll ever be able to see that same Milky Way at the same spot again...
"We will... For sure, one day..."
That makes me happy...
Even if we were to become separated...
Let's both think of each other on Tanabata...

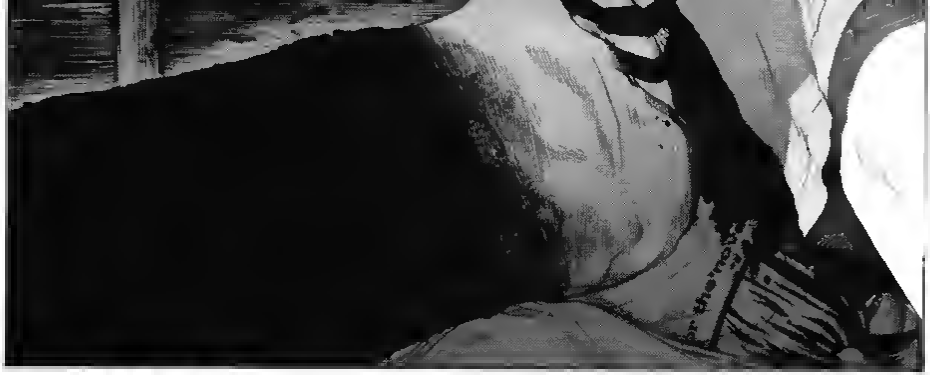
"...Yes, I promise."

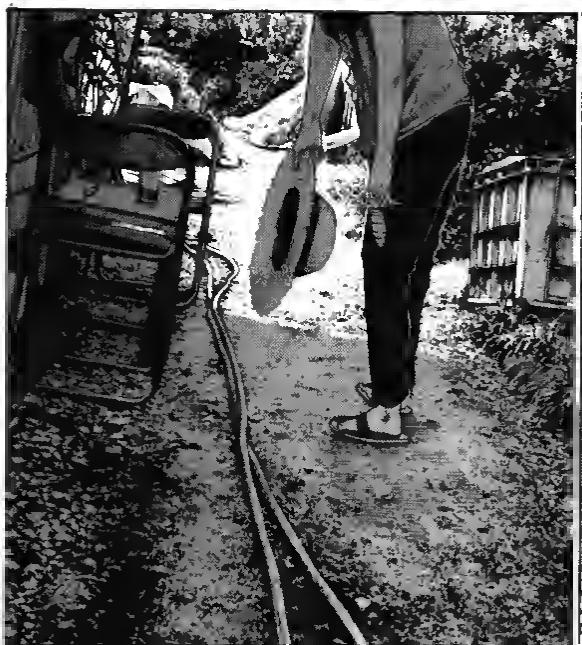
Haha...

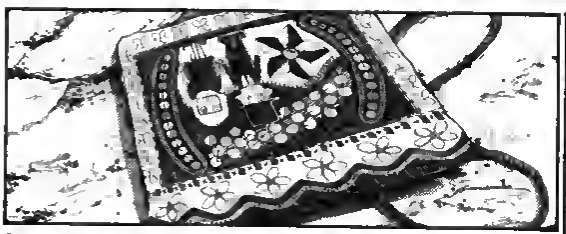
Chapter 139

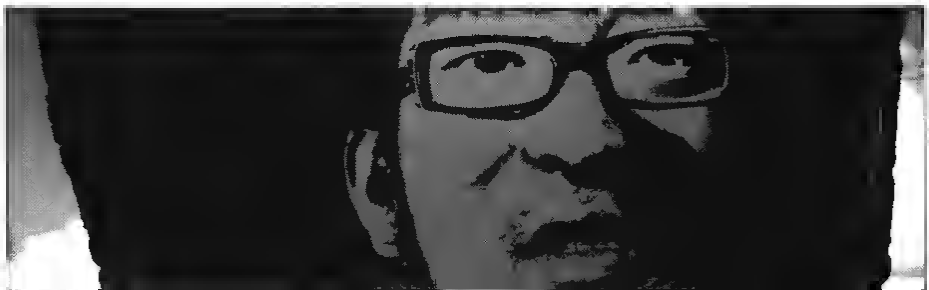


July 1,
2 P.M.



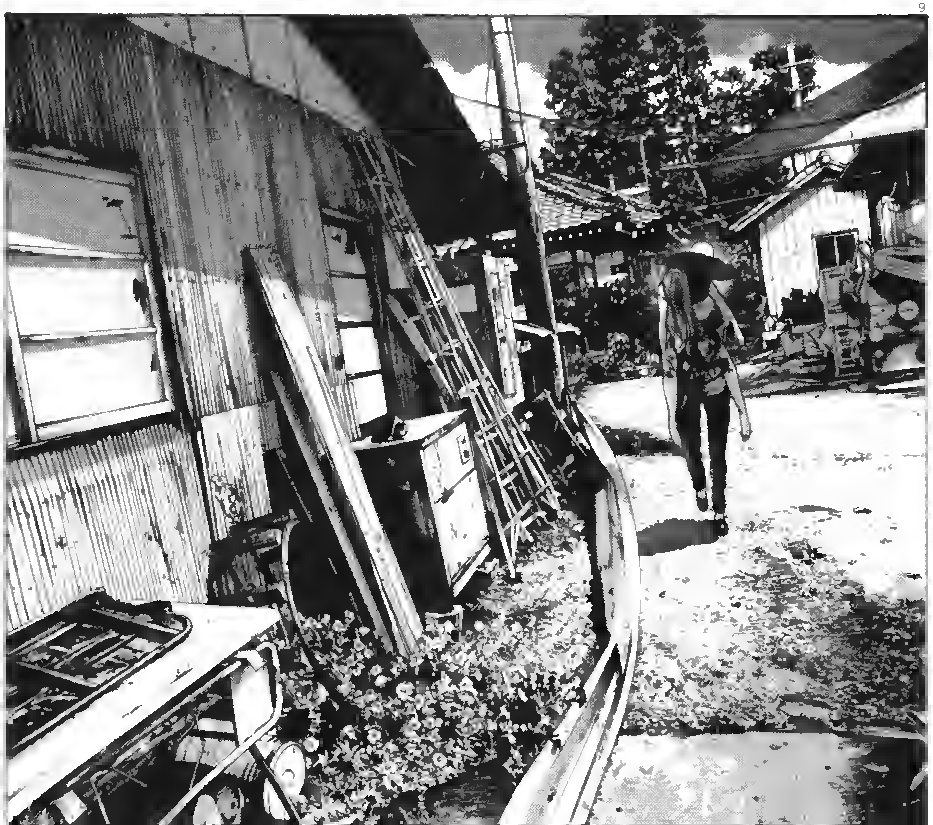


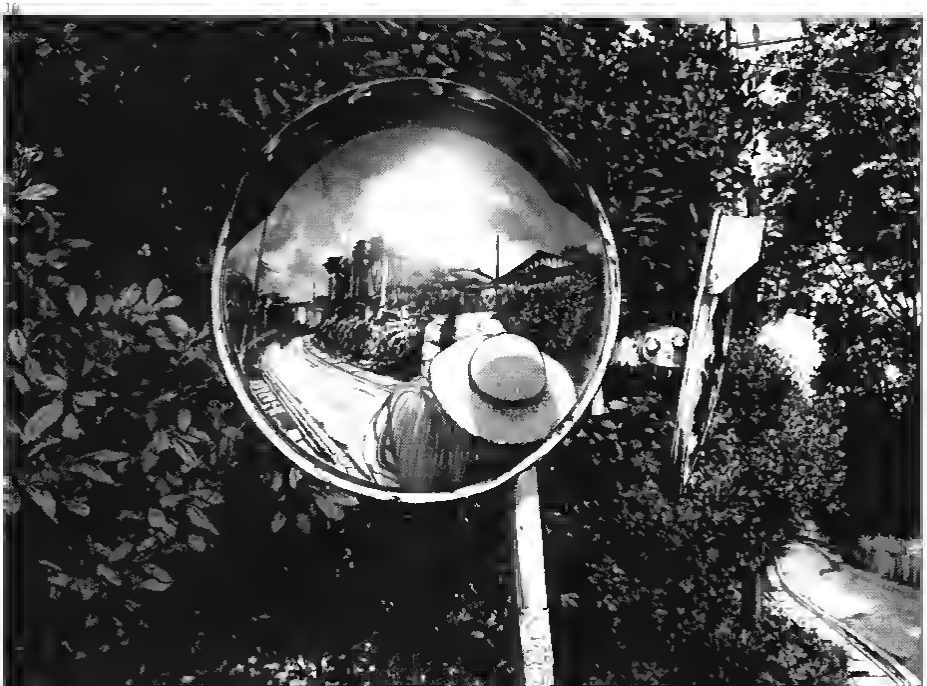


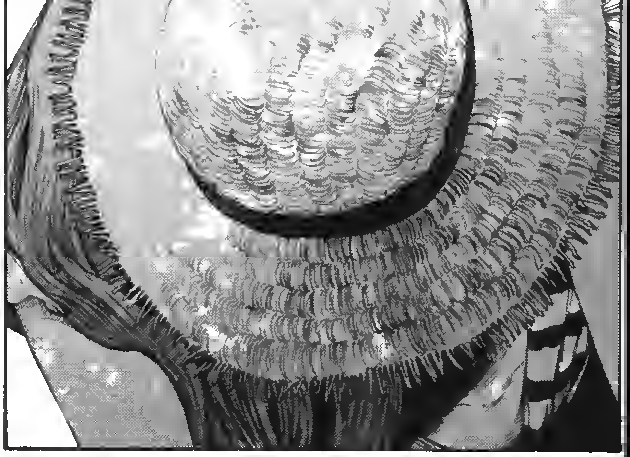


8

"...Let's go, Aiko."

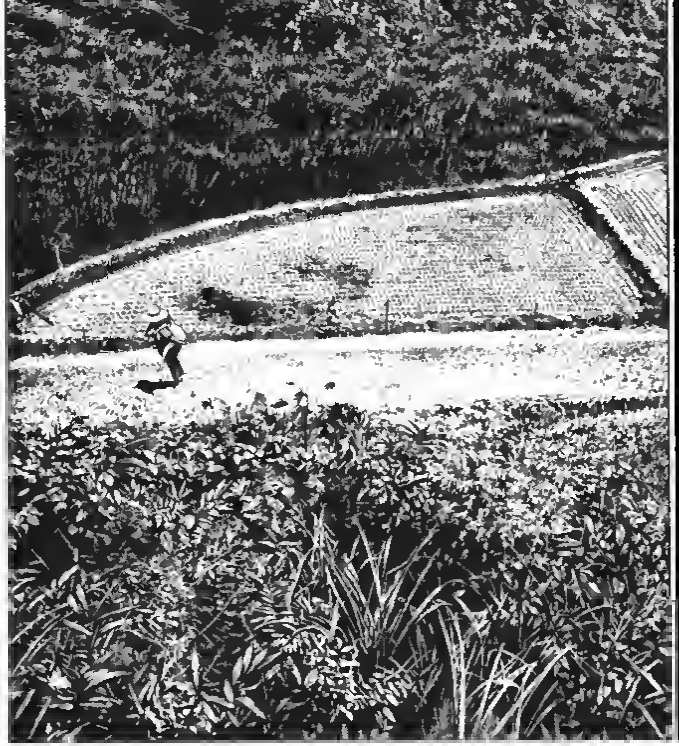






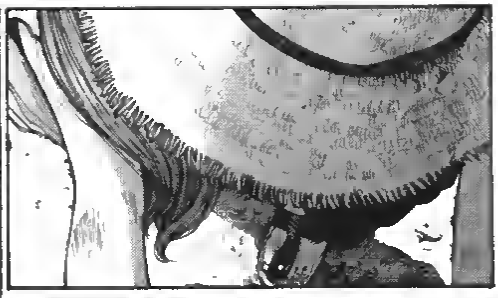
"...Aiko, I've been thinking about it. About our life from now.

"...Just think about it.
We probably can no longer live a very peaceful life, but I do think it's still possible to bring a little enjoyment to our lives."

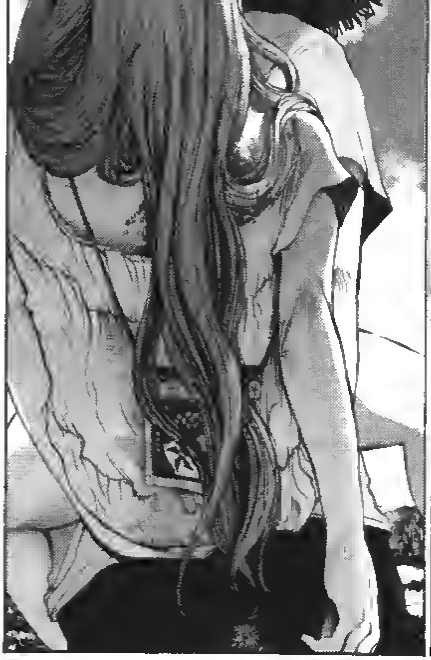


"Just as I wake up in the evening to go for my night shift, you'll come home from your job. You'll complain about your coworkers, but because it's the same old thing, I'll feel annoyed, but I would put up with it if it meant some of your stress would be relieved."

"It'd be a life in which we have little time to see each other due to our jobs, and yet we would hardly have any money to save up so we'd be in huge trouble if either one of us were to become caught up in an accident. The exhaustion would grind me down into a person far more boring than even now, and before long, you'll fall for a younger and taller man and toss me aside."



"...Hm? Oh, sorry for the depressing story. Let me try again from the beginning."

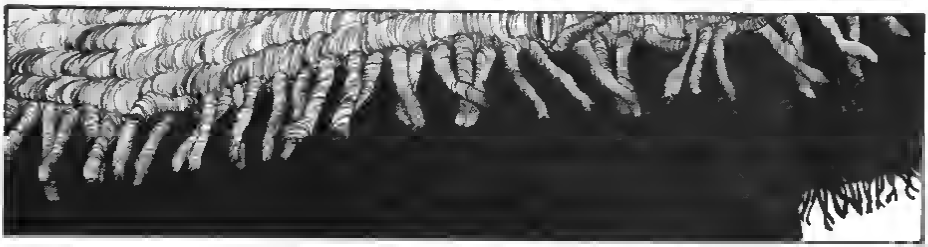


"...Aiko, I've been thinking.
About what I want to do or
what I want to be done to me."

"You know, Aiko..."

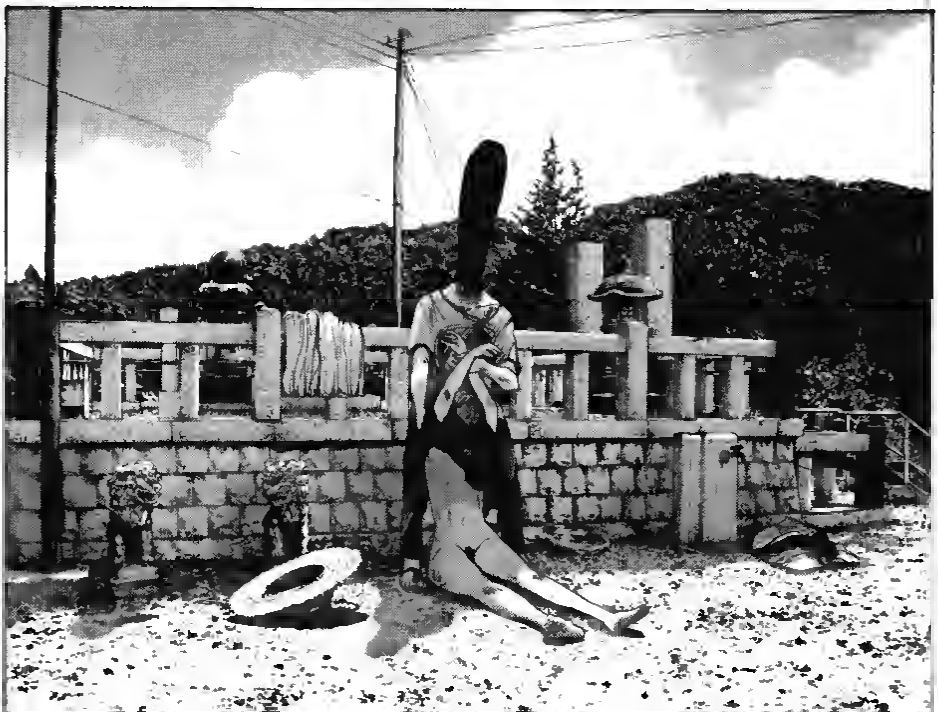
"I really wanted to be killed by you."

16



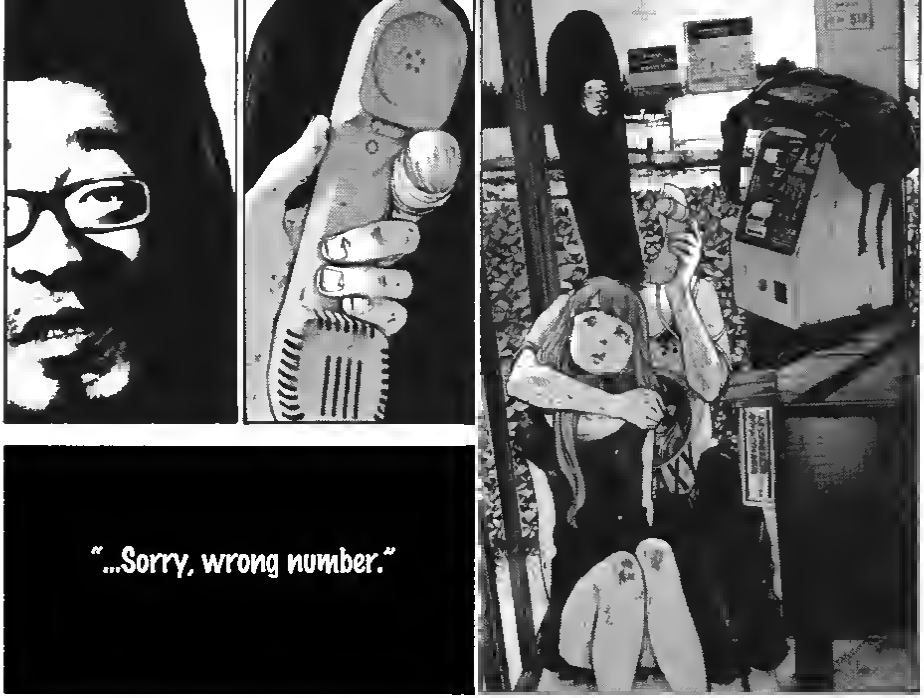
"...What am I, an idiot?"

ELECTRIC PRISON



You have reached the 119 emergency center.
Are you calling for the fire department or the emergency medical services?

Hello?
Can you hear me?
Are you calling for the fire department or the emergency medical services?

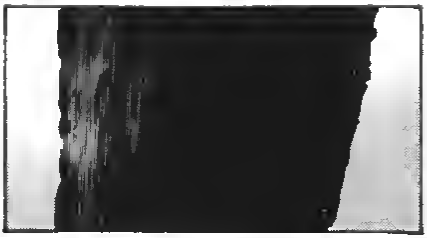


"...Sorry, wrong number."

"Hi there."

"We came here by foot from far. It's fine if we rest here for a little while, right?"

"We just wanted to see how far we could go.
Just the two of us."

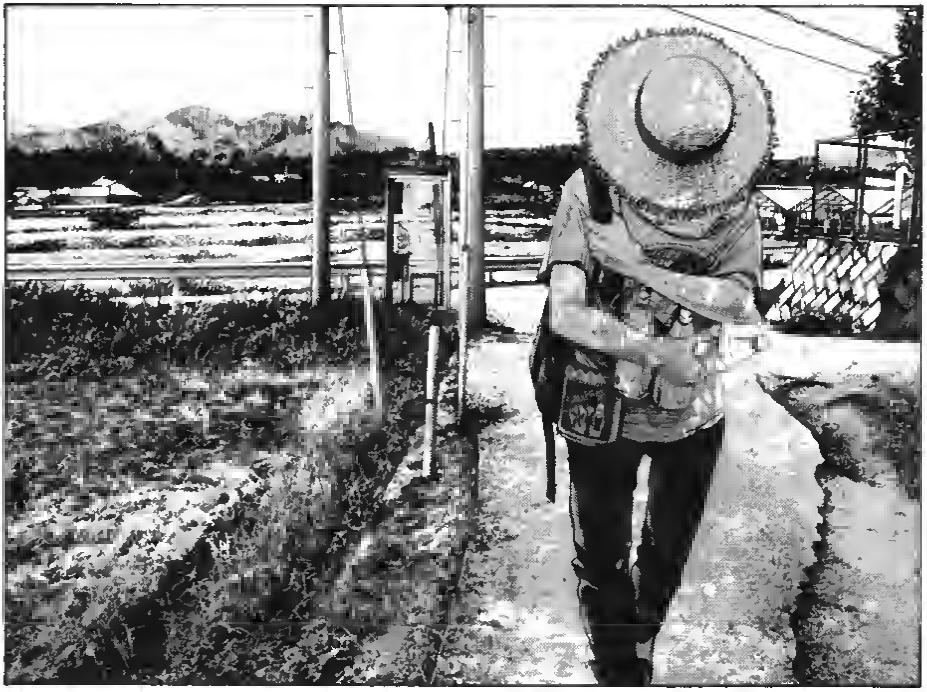


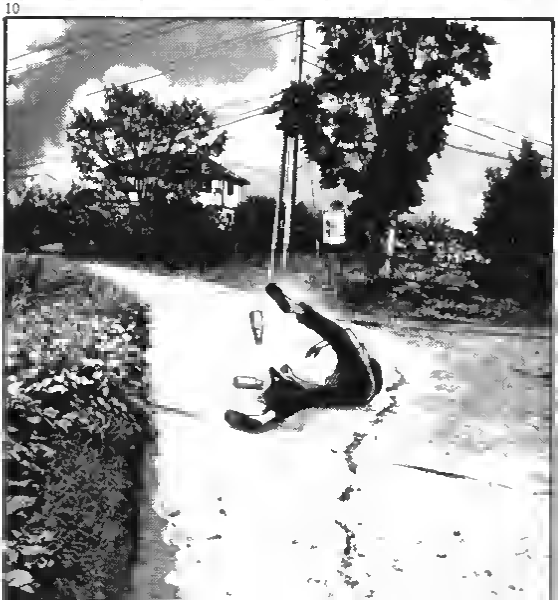
"Oh shoot... I left my bag at the phone booth..."

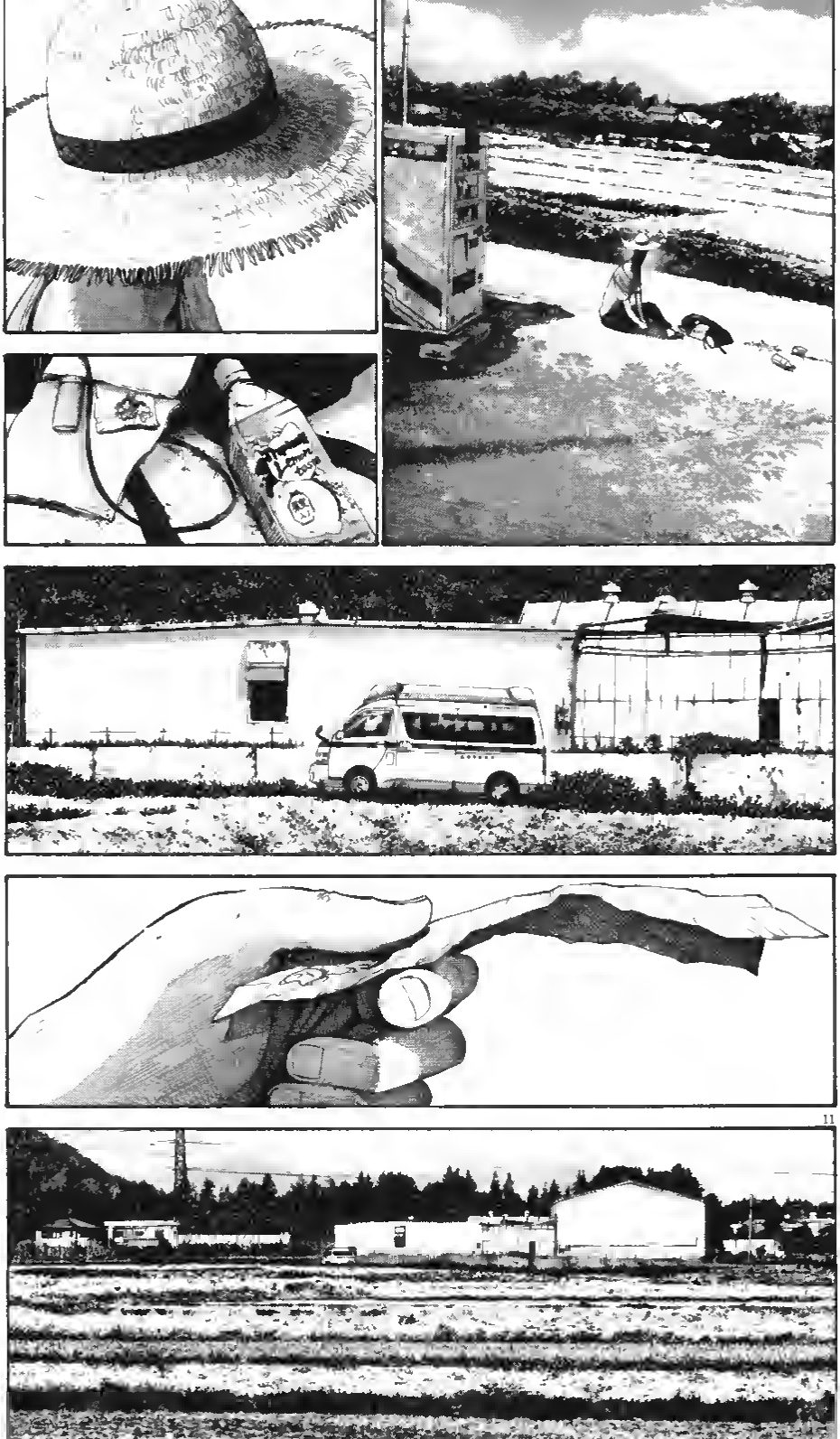
"She's very tired and only just managed to fall asleep. It'd be mean to wake her up now, you see?"

"Could you two... Perhaps stay here until I get back and prevent anyone from touching or talking to my friend here?"

"Thank you. You two are a great pair."



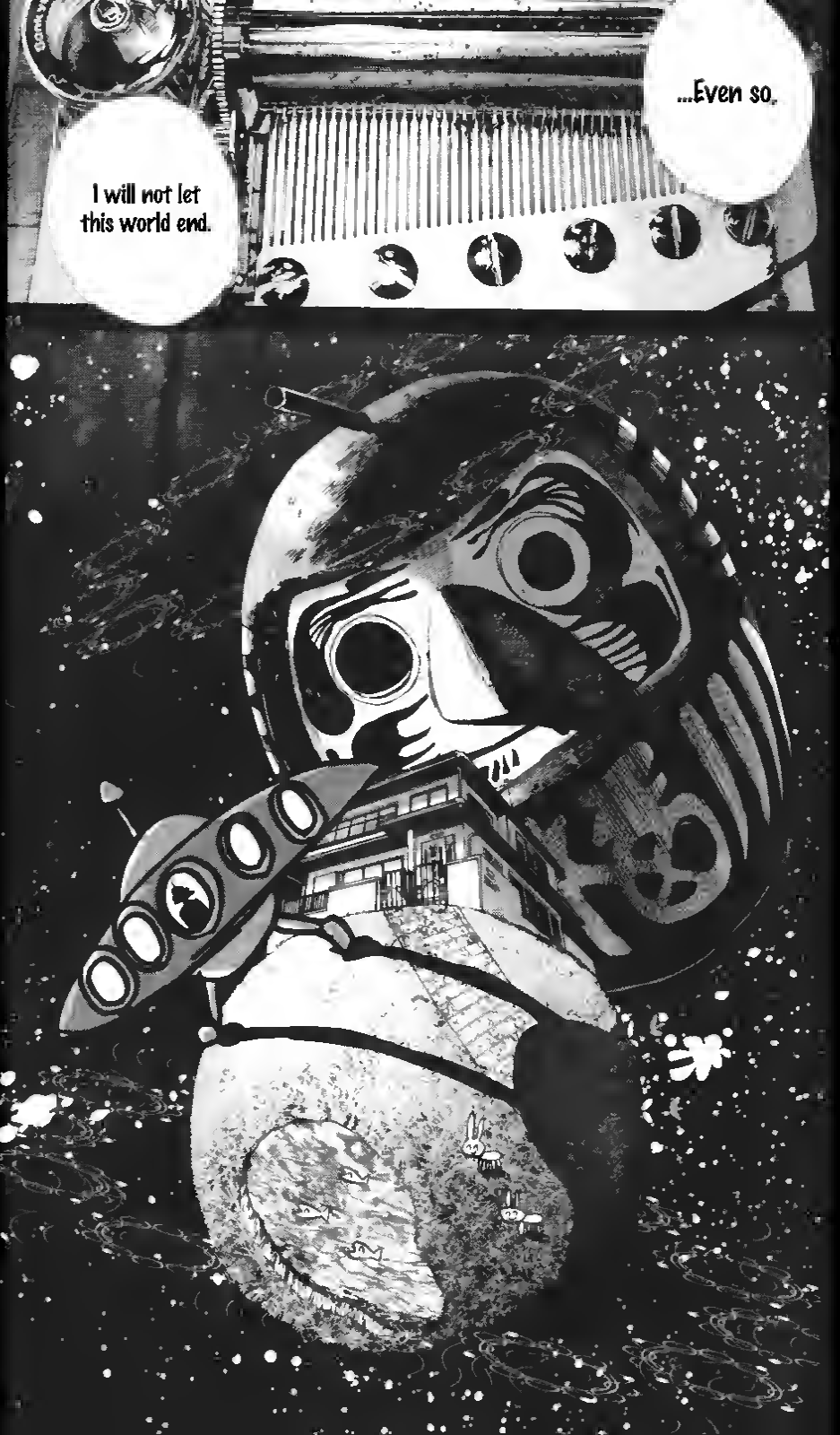




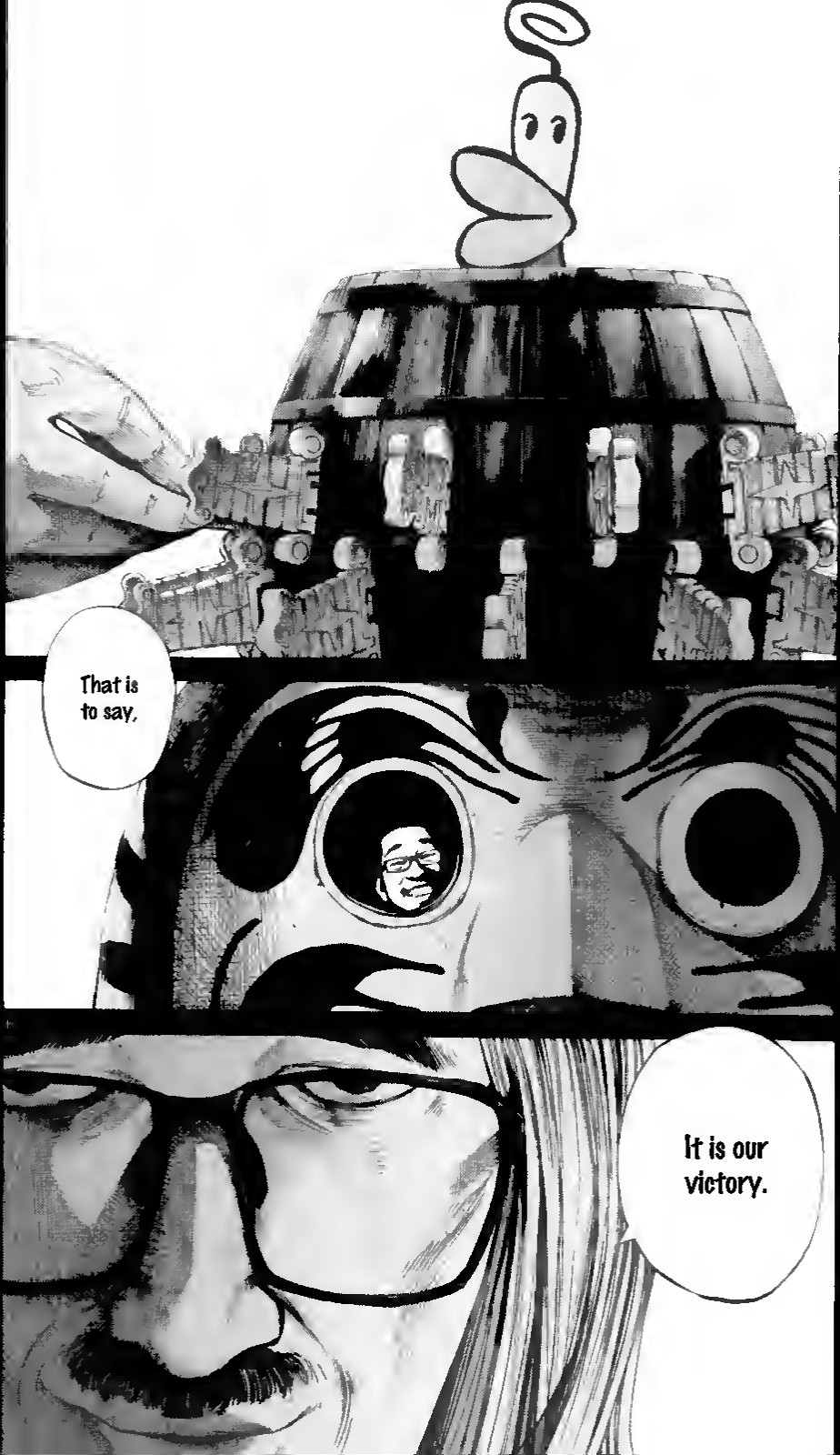
19

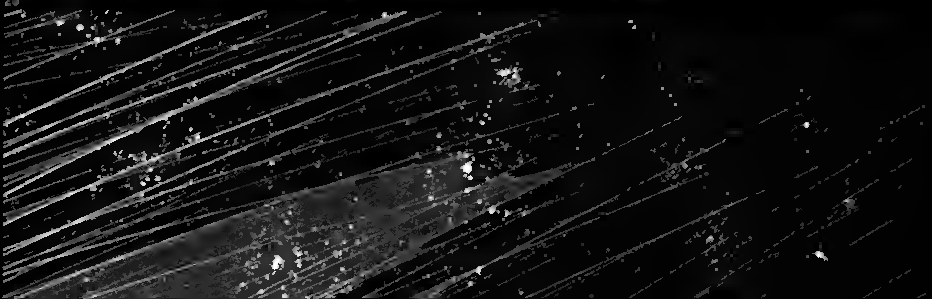
Ma
forge

May you never
forget me.


...Even so,
I will not let this world end.

...Lastly, I'd like to thank you,
My beloved magical warriors...
The new world is, in other words,
A test to the lovers...
Bearing your utmost trust in me, I wish to tell you,
Our good vibrations will surely engrave harmony unto the universe.
The time...
Is at hand.

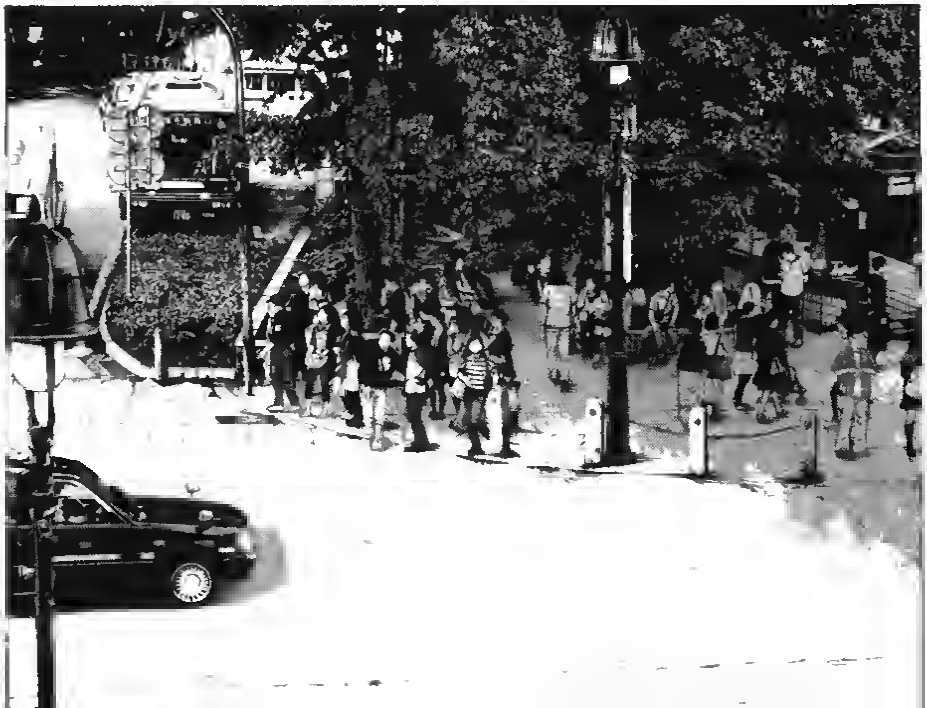

That is to say,
It is our victory.



Chapter 141

2

3

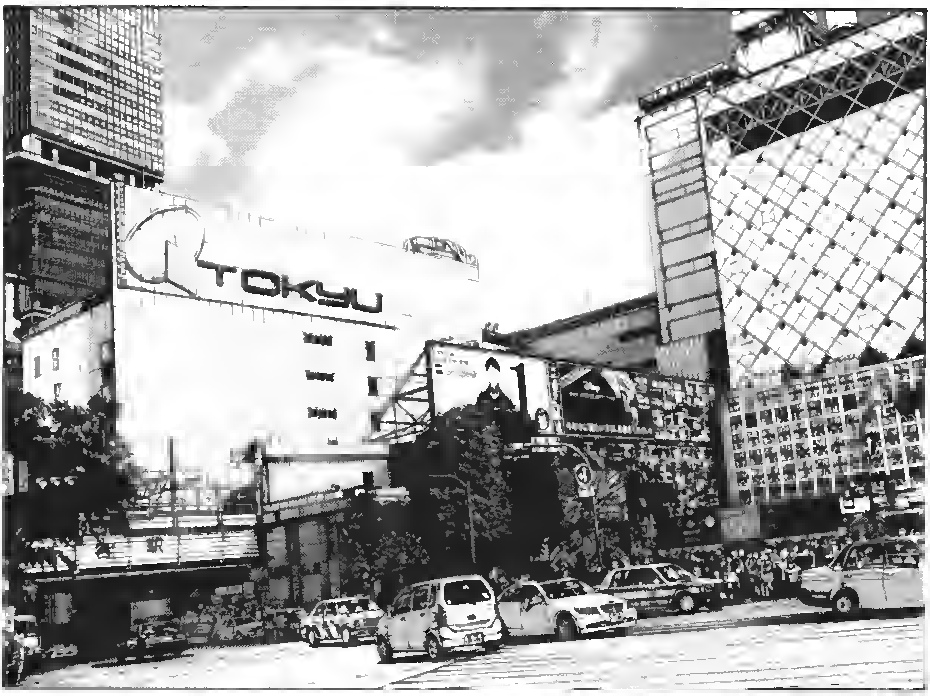


July 7th, Tokyo, Clear-weather

A young girl jogged across the road while frantically explaining through her cell phone why she was late.

To be tied down by objectives and obligations is inconvenient, I thought.

But that may be the only thing that connects my current self to the me of tomorrow.



It was quite here.
Very quiet.

For a moment,
I felt if someone had called out to me,

But of course, such a thing not only didn't happen, but I then felt that my name was of no use and better off forgotten.

I felt a nostalgic yearning for the gloomy 6-tatami room I will never return to and the dull, pointless scenery of its town.

But that is not the place I must go.

YO!

I close my eyes for a brief moment to become just another part of the waves of masses going through the transit ticket gates.

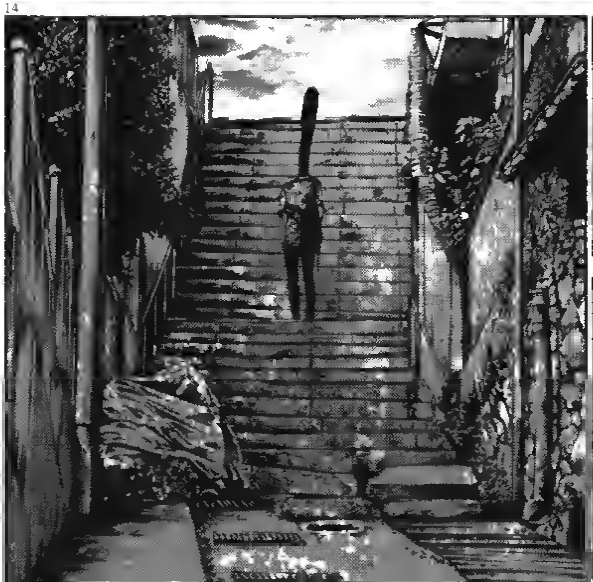
When I reopen my eyes, I feel as if I've gone back to several months ago, when I was still a nobody.

...He is just fine again today.

サロンパス
F21
FOREVER 21
I ♥ m.k

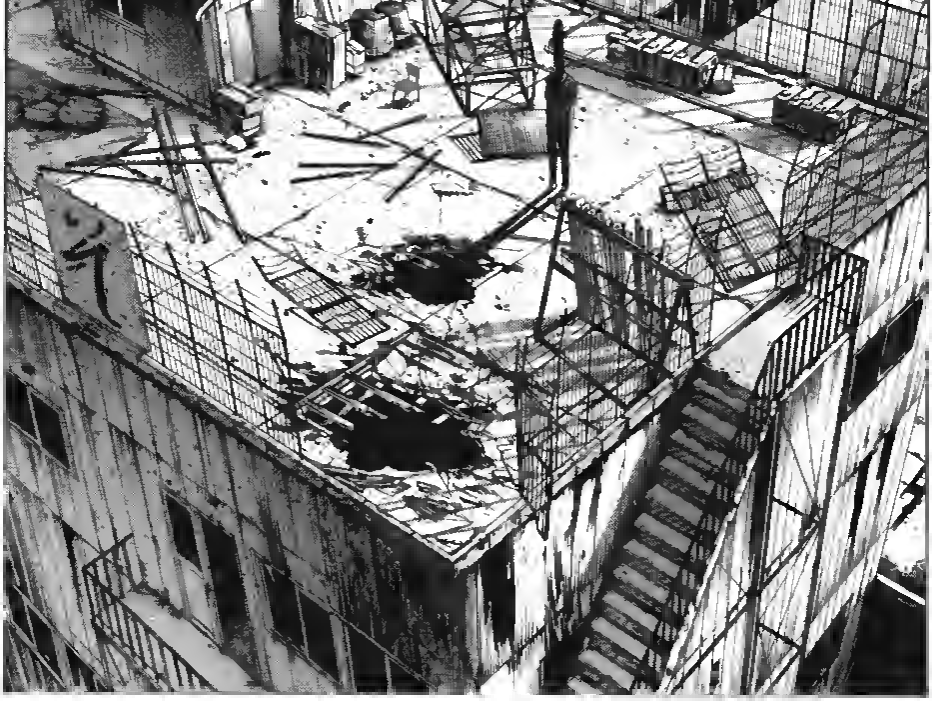
渋谷駅前
Shibuya Sta
スクランブル式
大和証券

The starry sky.
At that same place.
Once more.



15

16

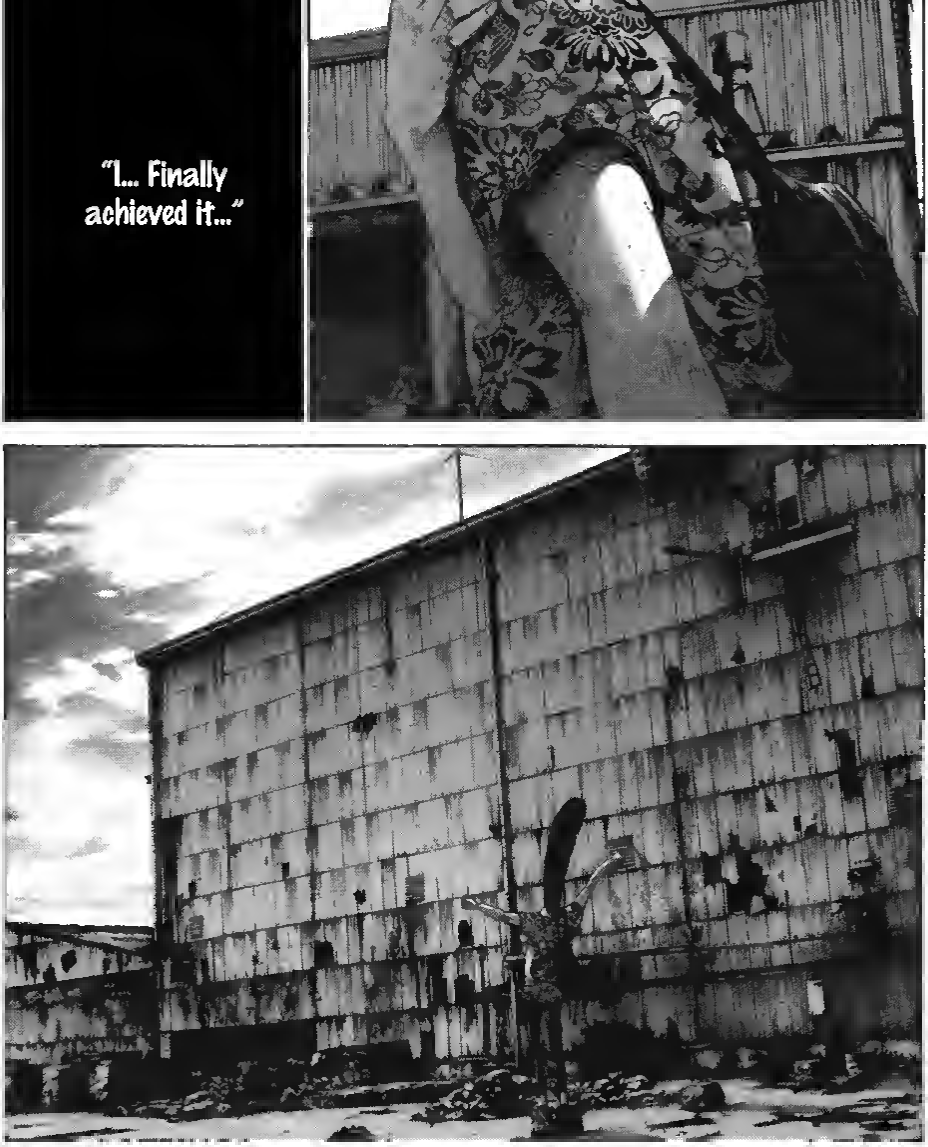


"I've.....
Become strong."

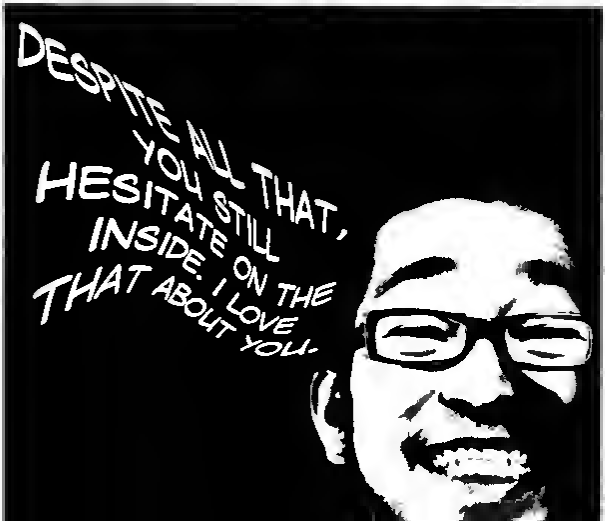
"Without anything to lose, there is nothing to protect. Troubles, anxieties, and even happiness.

This is the very ideal that I myself sought."

"I have no regrets.
Even if time were to wind back over and over again, it would only play out the same way."


"I... Finally achieved it..."
YES! I DID IT!

YOU SURE THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY?


DESPITE ALL THAT, YOU STILL HESITATE ON THE INSIDE. I LOVE THAT ABOUT YOU.

"Hello, God."

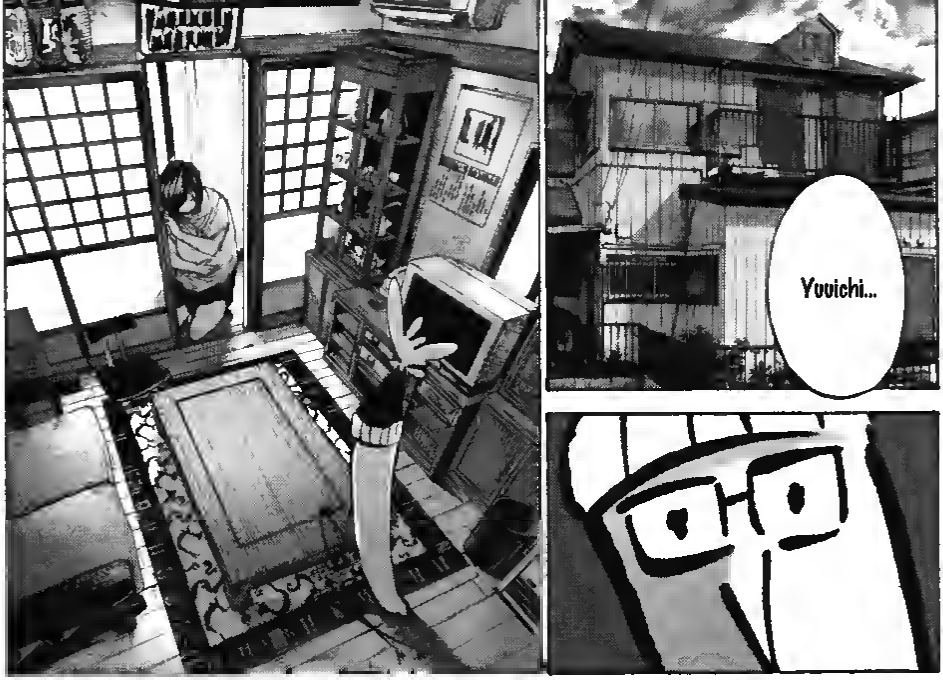
"I'm not hesitating.
It's clear what the last
thing I should do is."

(Laughs)

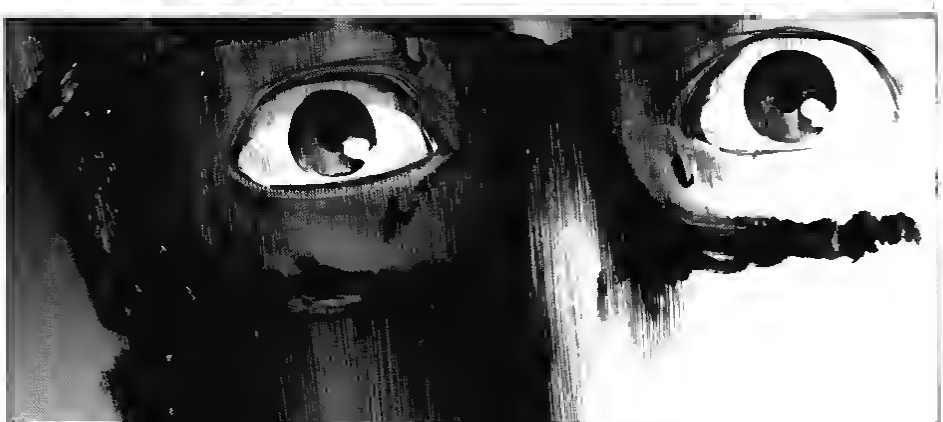
SHALL WE HURRY BACK TO THAT DULL AND TIRESOME EVERYDAY LIFE?

"...No, you die."

22


Yuuichi...

I...
I think the baby's coming...



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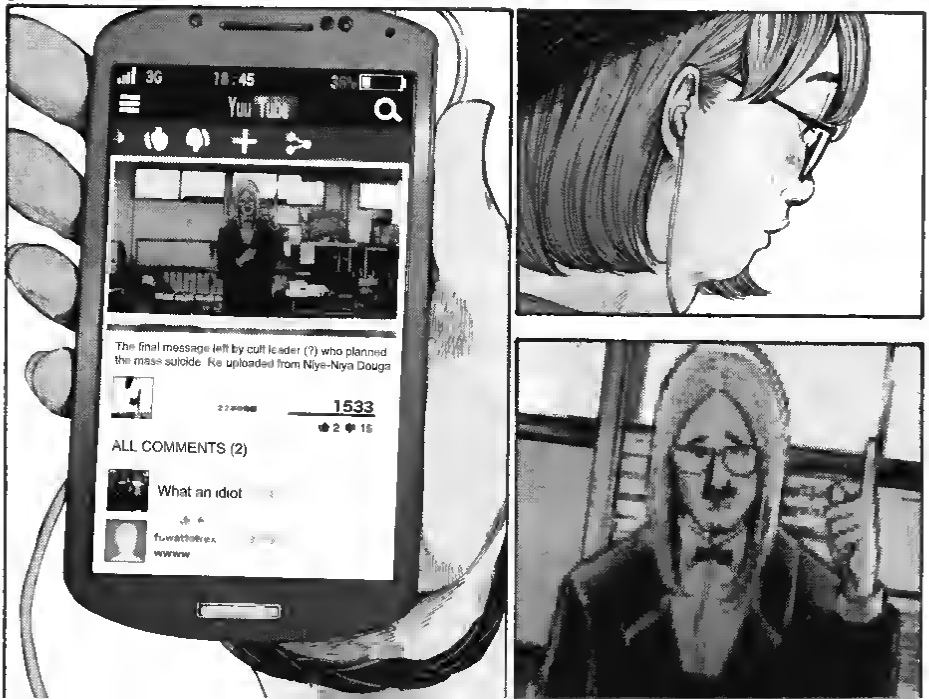

3G
18:45
38%
YouTube
The final message left by cult leader (?) who planned the mass suicide. Re uploaded from Niye-Niya Douga
1533
2 15
ALL COMMENTS (2)
What an idiot
wwww

Talk about stupid.

"Milky Way"
Nanjou Sachi

Nanjou?
You throwing this away?
BOOBOO QUEEN

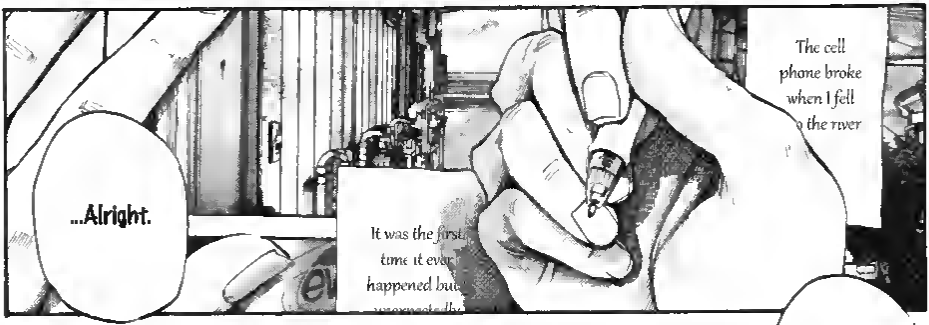
Welcome back, Miyuki!
Gesumi here, reporting, reporting!
Oh, you're here alone, Gesumi? That's rare.

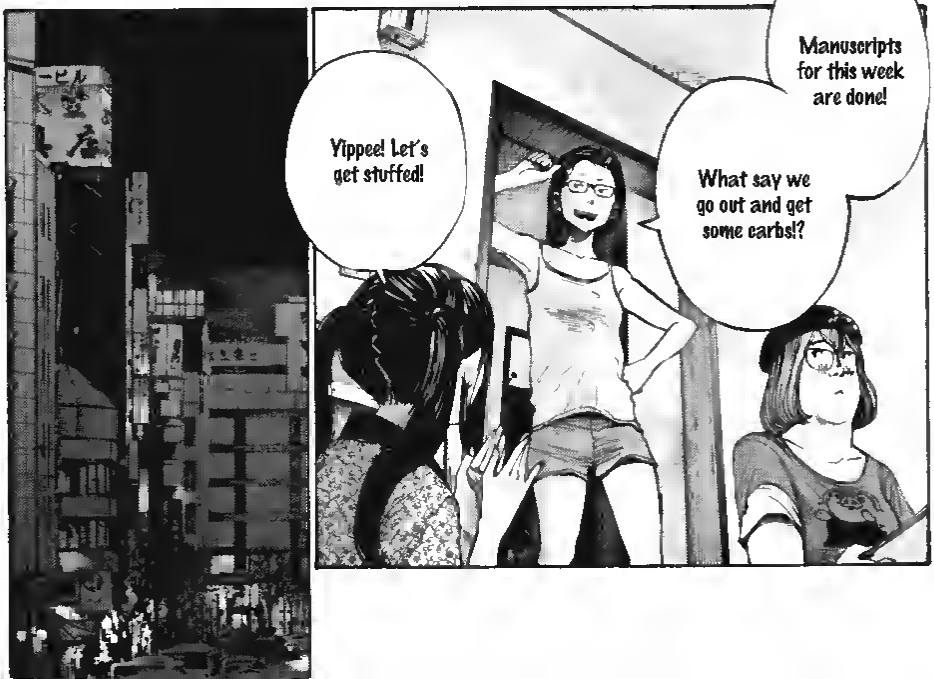
You're even throwing away your graduation album? Aren't you bold...

I'm calling for an assistant next week so I'm just cleaning up the place and making some room.
I called Gesumi over to help me sort my stuff.

Then again,
What I should actually be surprised at is the fact you even kept it until now...
Nanjou Sachi
Takarazumi E

Hm?
Sachi, are you throwing this manga away too?
Yup.
Gonna throw it all out...


The cell phone broke when I fell in the river
...Alright.


Manuscripts for this week are done!
What say we go out and get some carbs!?
Yippee! Let's get stuffed!

SLAM!

You see...!
I really admire strong, independent women like you, Sachi!

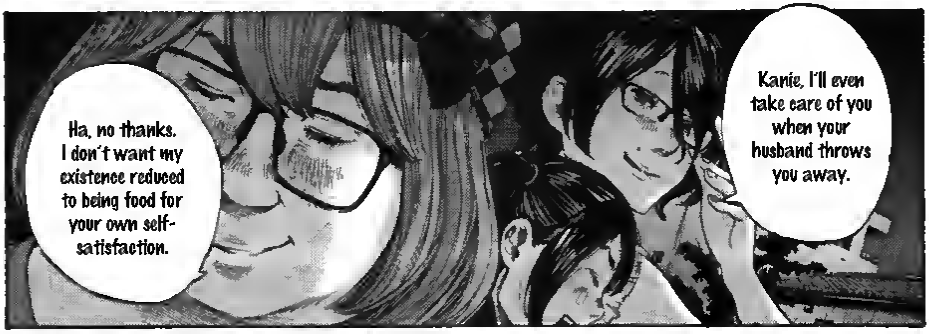
I'm not ticked off!
I'm only disappointed at Mimura's flippancy for making promises he can't keep!
かあ
This girl's quite off the hook today, isn't she?
She's just ticked off because Mimura's not around to take care of her at the moment.
She apparently forces Mimura to mail her at least 3 times a day.
My, isn't that an annoying girlfriend to have.

Long ago...
Back when I was a kid, there was this boy - the son of a lunch store owner - who I often saw at the factory my mom worked at...
Sachi...
You're the kind of person who'd always keep her promises, right?
Oh? Do I sense the start of a lesbo-vibe?
No, not really...
Even I've made promises that I couldn't keep...
I promised him to show show my manga once I finished it,
But I never could in the end...
When I was in middle school, I coincidentally managed to see him again, but my self-consciousness got in the way and I couldn't bring myself to talk to him.
Though I have to point out, it didn't seem like he remembered me at all...

Not really...
Wouldn't it be great if that boy was reading your manga somewhere right now!?
It's already way back in the past

But even if I were to coincidentally see him again, the chance encounter would still go to waste if I continue on half-heartedly with my life...
It's your everyday actions and mindset that turns those coincidental chances into miracles...
...Or at least, that's what I like telling myself these days.
Thinking of that factory sure takes me back though...
Back in my teens, I pretended to be the cool, mysterious girl so I often gazed at the night sky from there.
And the starry sky I saw then was the motif for my "Milky Way" painting
Oh my god! That's such a coincidence!
After all, today's Tanabata! Maybe you'll even be able to see that boy again!
I told you, I don't need any fairy-tale events like that.

Really, really!?
So even if you can't get married quickly, I'll look after you!
Don't worry, Gesumi!
I'll soon become rich and successful, you'll see!


Ha, no thanks. I don't want my existence reduced to being food for your own self-satisfaction.
Kanie, I'll even take care of you when your husband throws you away.

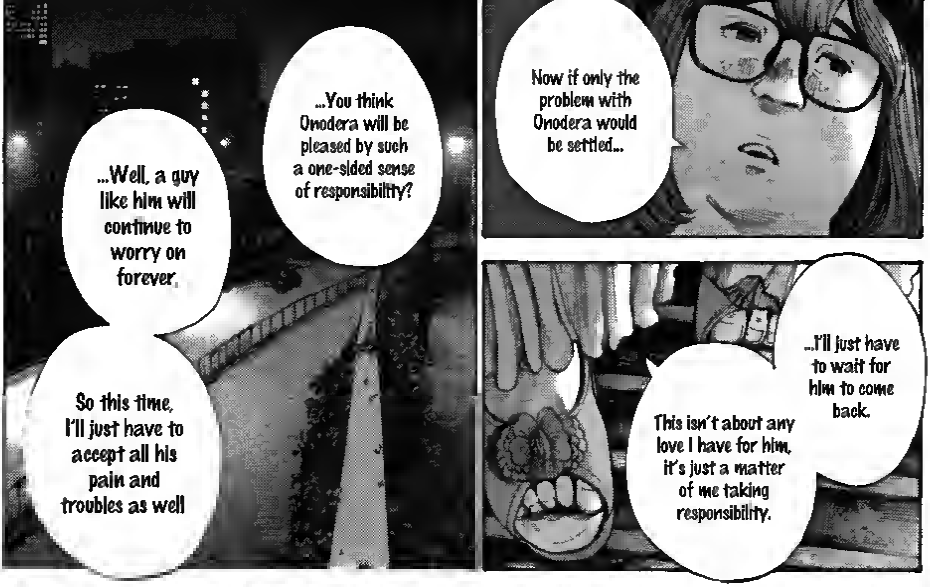
Ahahaha!
VICTORY!
Ugh, you're too heavy, Gesumi...
What's that supposed to mean?

Alright!
See ya.
Go settle things out with Mimura!
Righty, Righty,
I'll be off then!
Yes, I'll drag out his guts and wring his neck with it!

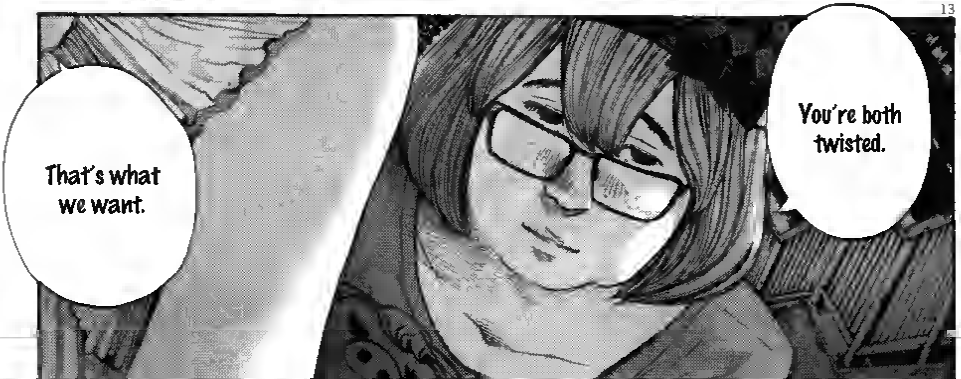
It'll be fine
Those two are a good match for each other.
I hope she makes up with him.

Hey, Nanjou...
We should head back and start work on the next manuscript...
...Alright, Kanie.

Hm?
Don't push yourself too hard.
You go overboard in always trying to handle everything yourself.
BOOBOO
I got tense from just watching your wheels about to burst at any moment.
You'll have a baby next year so you ought to pick up a more balanced view.
...That's just how I am.
Nothing good will come from me depending on others.
Oh...
Sorry for making you feel that way...
Don't forget that I'd then be just a nuisance for always butting into your affairs out of kind concern.
Well, it's your own choice whether you wear yourself out, but...

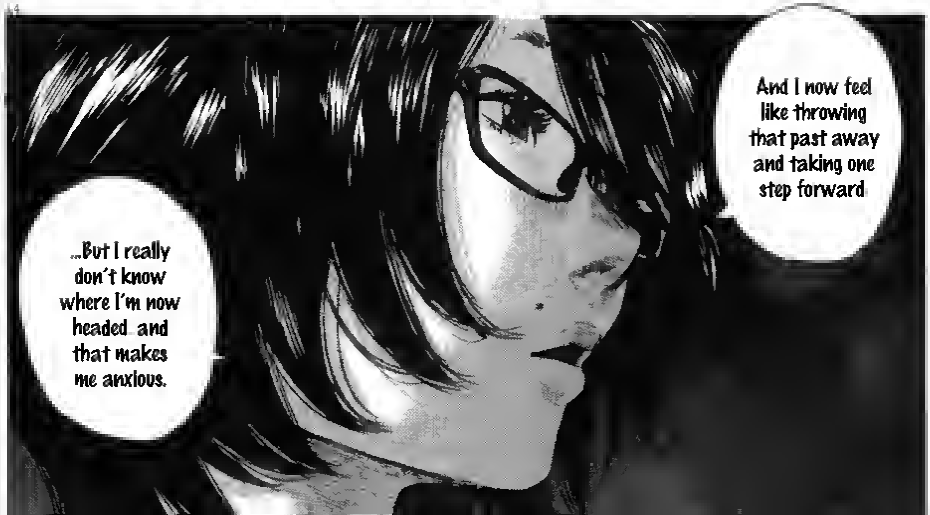

...You think Onodera will be pleased by such a one-sided sense of responsibility?
...Well, a guy like him will continue to worry on forever.
So this time, I'll just have to accept all his pain and troubles as well
Now if only the problem with Onodera would be settled...
...I'll just have to wait for him to come back.
This isn't about any love I have for him, it's just a matter of me taking responsibility.

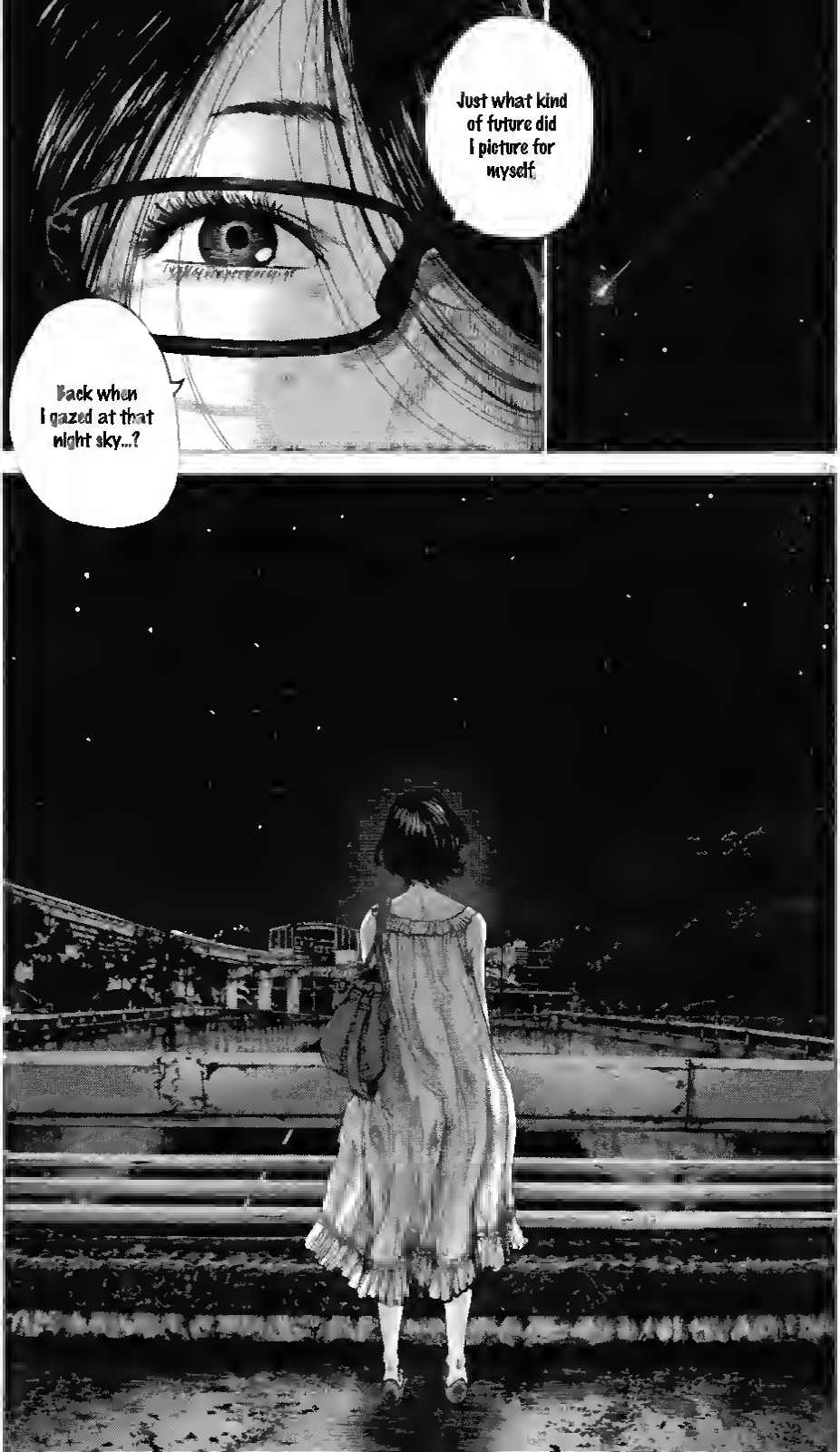
...I'm not wishing for any proper happiness.
The two of us are both like that.


You're both twisted.
That's what we want.

Truth be told about that painting,
I've actually never seen the Milky Way.
In a city like this, you can barely make out even third-magnitude stars.
So what I drew in my painting's just a big lie.

And my lone hope was my belief that what I couldn't see still existed somewhere.
As a kid I insisted I could see what I couldn't


And I now feel like throwing that past away and taking one step forward
...But I really don't know where I'm now headed, and that makes me anxious.


Just what kind of future did I picture for myself
Back when I gazed at that night sky...?

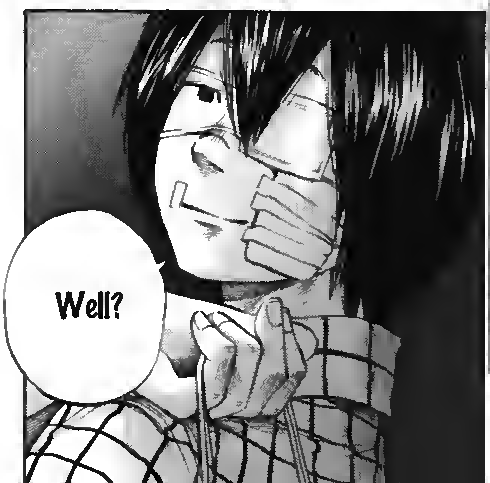
...Kanie
Yeah?
Mind if you walk with me a lil' longer?

市民病院

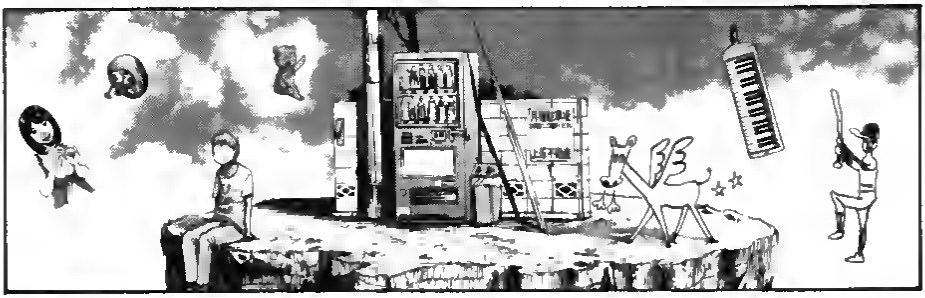
MANGA

Haha.
Hey, Shimizu.
You look even in better shape than me.

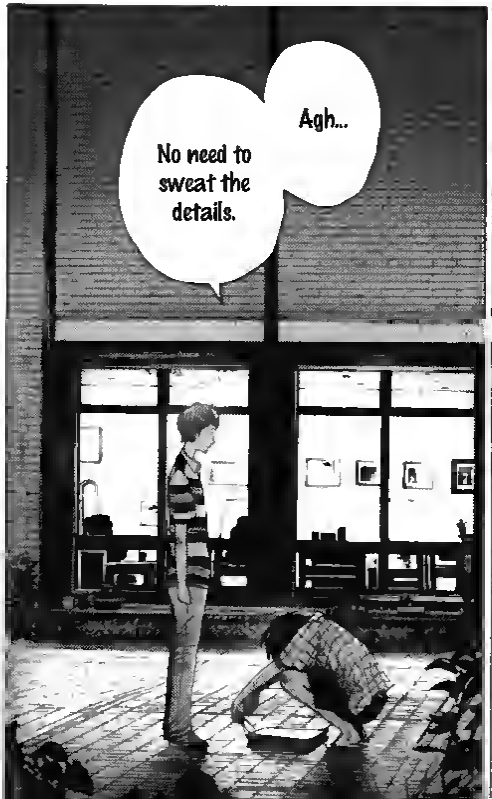
Alright, let's go home.
Let's save tomorrow's worries for tomorrow.

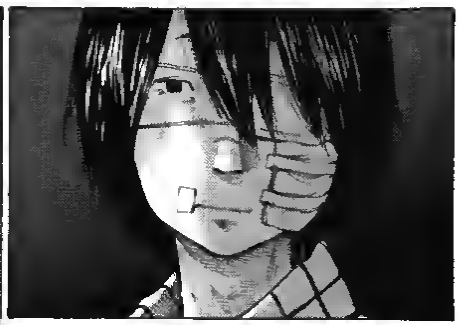

Well?

...Who're you?



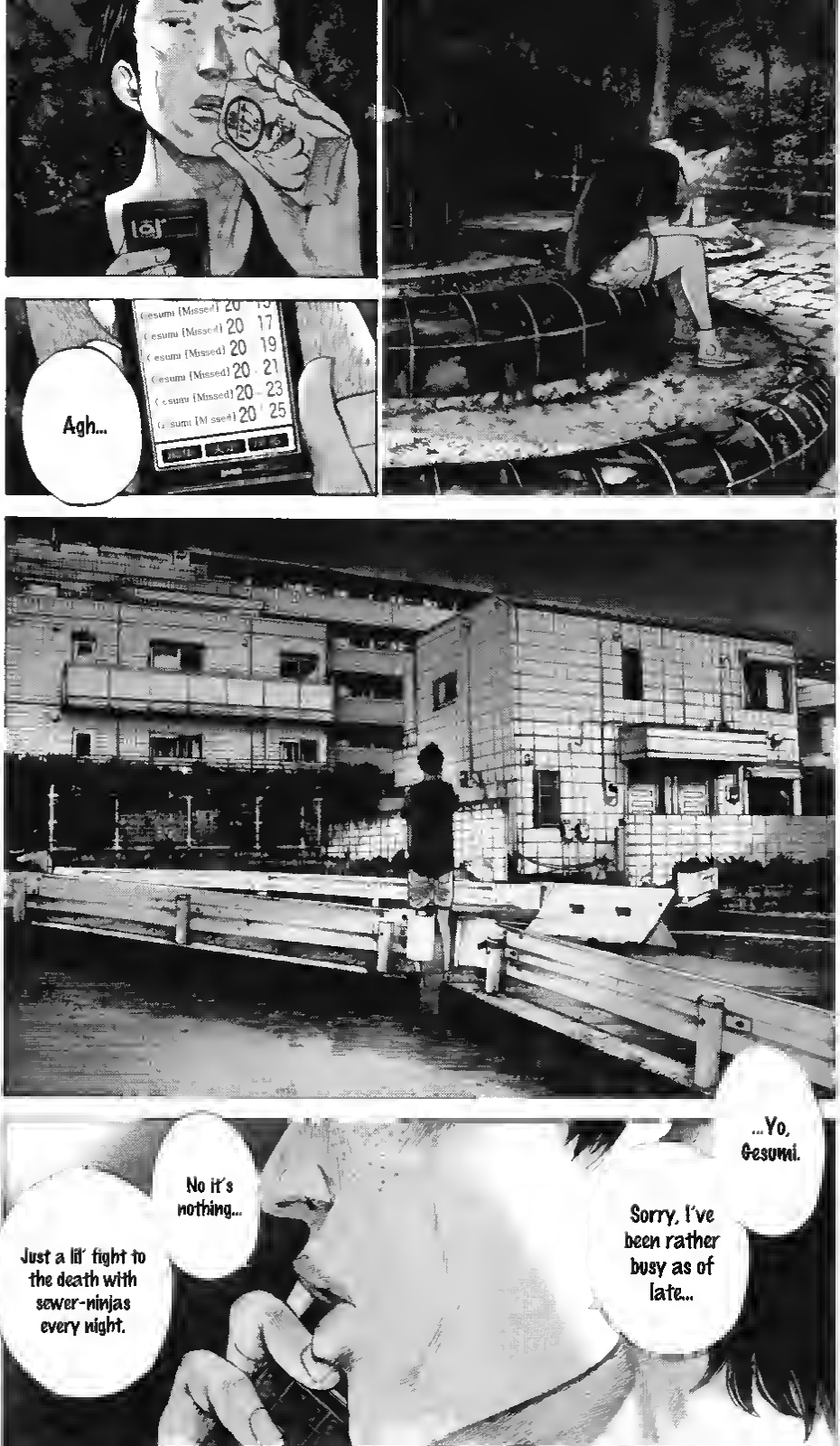
Chapter 143





I'm...
Your friend.

No. I haven't seen him since graduation. Don't even know what he's doing
...Wait.
Don't tell me you've been visiting all our high-school buddies' homes and asking around, have you!?
Huh? Ono-T?


Agh...
Gesumi [Missed] 20 17
Gesumi [Missed] 20 19
Gesumi [Missed] 20 21
Gesumi [Missed] 20 23
Gesumi [Missed] 20 25
...Yo, Gesumi.
Sorry, I've been rather busy as of late...
No it's nothing...
Just a lil' fight to the death with sewer-ninjas every night.

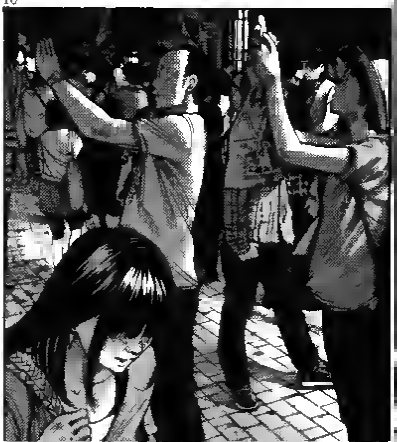
Huh? Why're you crying!?
Oh cmon, we're already lovers. Don't make me say embarrassing mush!
I'm a Kyushu-man, y'know!
I set sail for great things without grumbl-
What?
Huh? I don't need to come!?
I think your wit just went waaay over my head...
...Right, sorry.
I'm just a boy born and raised in Kanagawa
Yeah, I'll hurry over there right now.

Awesome...
Whoa...
I've decided.
I'm coming to pick you up right now.
I LOVE...
Because, listen dammit!

桁下高

無料漫画・パソコン
利用場所

The final message left by cult leader ( ) who planned the mass suicide Re uploaded from Niya Niya Douga
maruded
1682
3 24
ALL COMMENTS (8)
Huffy Bro
Today s the last night of the world
ちくび
At 5 26 when he says At the moment the Milky Way passes by hope is he talking about the current
shower?

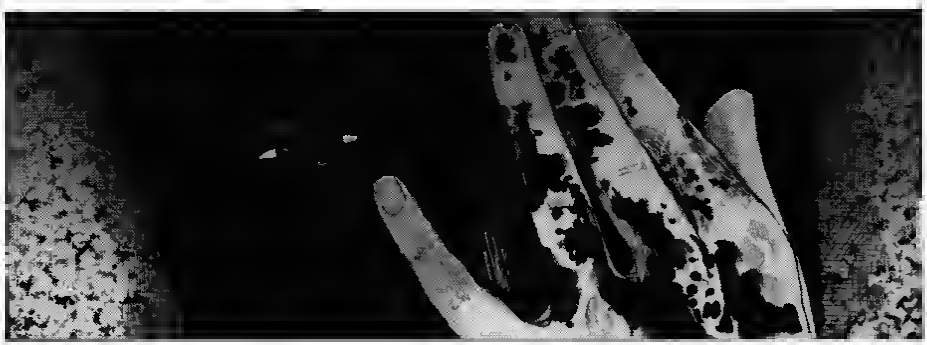


How nice it'd be if I could disappear
by burning up like that in a flash,
he thought.

The shooting stars are falling one by one.

Neither happy nor sad,
He lied down, simply tired.

Both Aiko and God are now gone.
I'll close my remaining eye and fall asleep
without worrying about tomorrow...
That was how he thought.

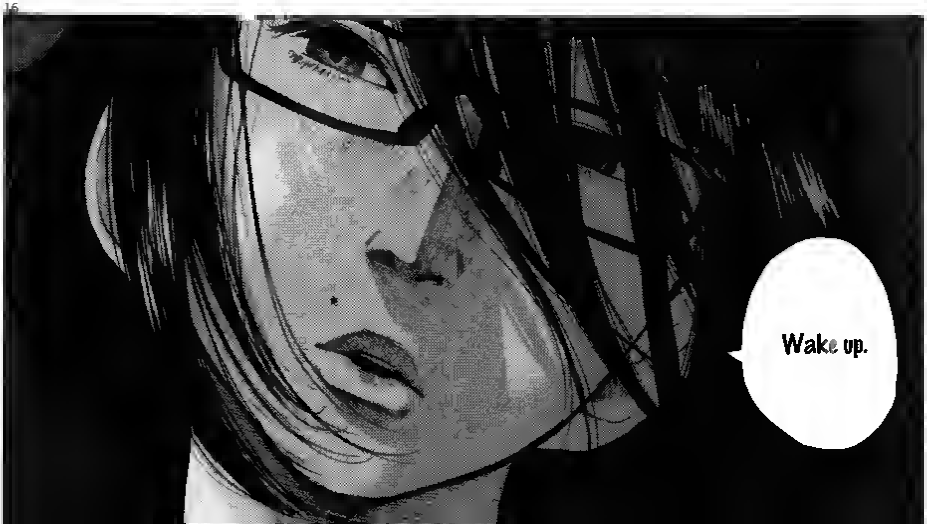


...Goodnight.

Punpun.

...But I didn't let him do such a thing.

Perhaps it's just my own selfishness, but...

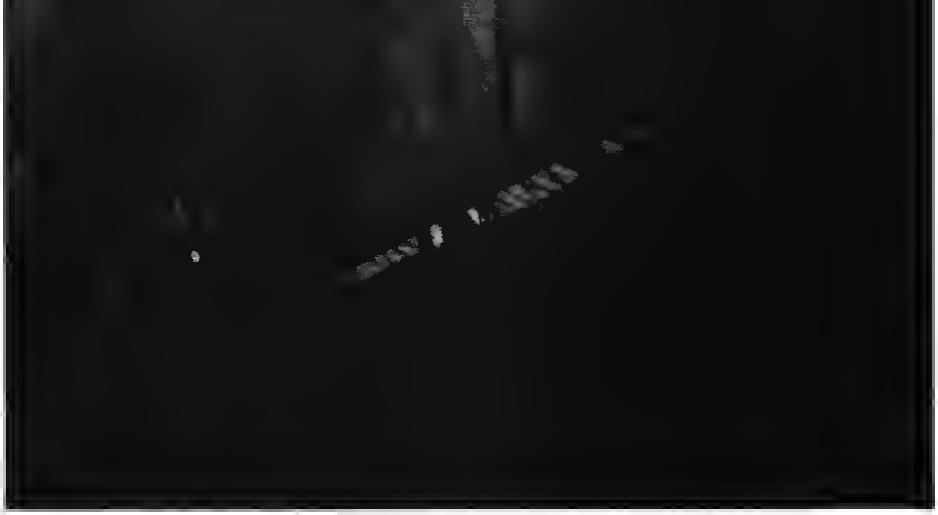


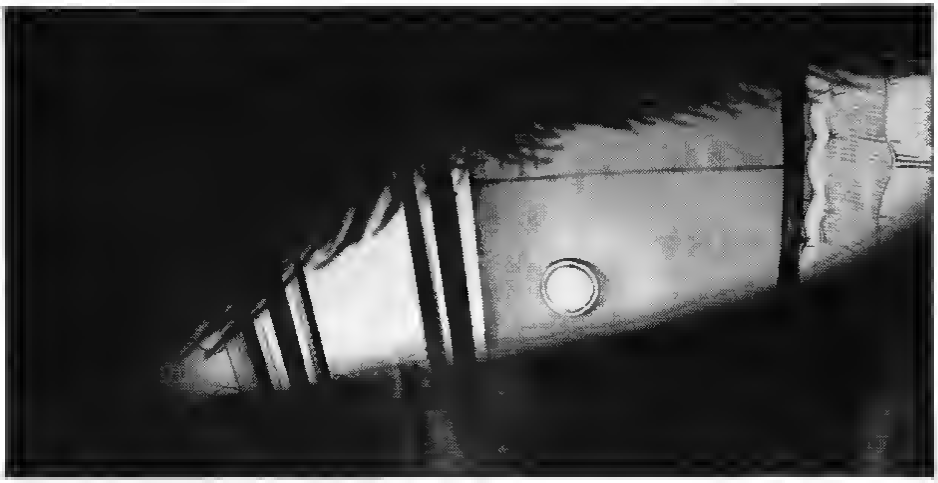
As long as Punpun continues to suffer,
the stronger I'll have to be.
...I won't ever let him run away from me again.

...That's why,

...You're mine and mine alone.

Chapter 144



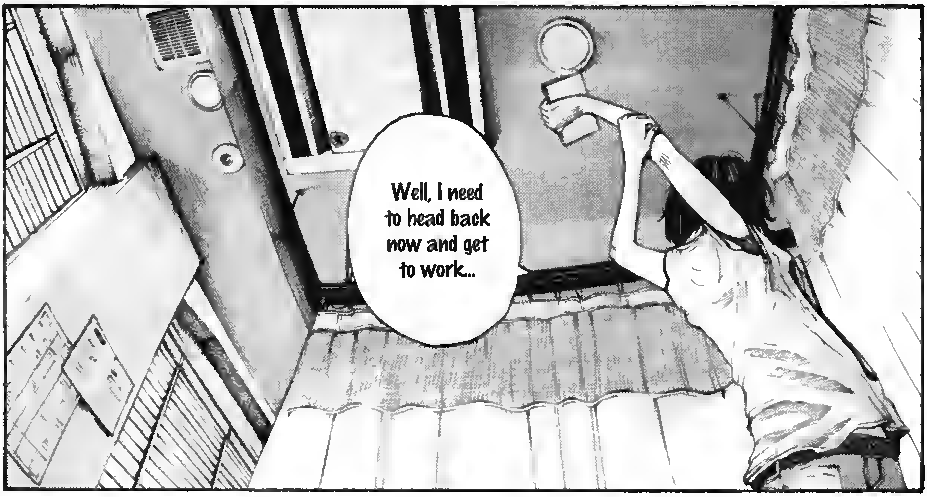


...Ah-

No, no.
Don't strain your body to get up. Just stay as you are.

You've been asleep for half a day since then.
Mimura and Misuzu came by a little while ago.
You just had surgery.
On your left eye.

I don't really mind,
But you really should try not to worry the others...


Well, I need to head back now and get to work...

...Hm?
What, this?

I had some free time so I wrote some ideas for my next story.
You wanna see?

This is the main character.
What d'you think?
Too much?

...It's just a joke. My editor would be shocked beyond words if I tried a stunt like that
Mimura was the one who doodled that

I don't care how low or sleazy the work is, I'm going to draw a manga that'll sell so I can get out from this hell created by my self-consciouness.
Once you've started running, you can't just stop in the middle...
But I do have to start thinking about my next serialization...

I'll go home for today.
Sorry for rambling about unrelated stuff.
...Ha,

I...
I won't ask where you've been or what you've done.

But if there comes a time you feel like talking about it,
I'll be by your side ready to listen to all of it.

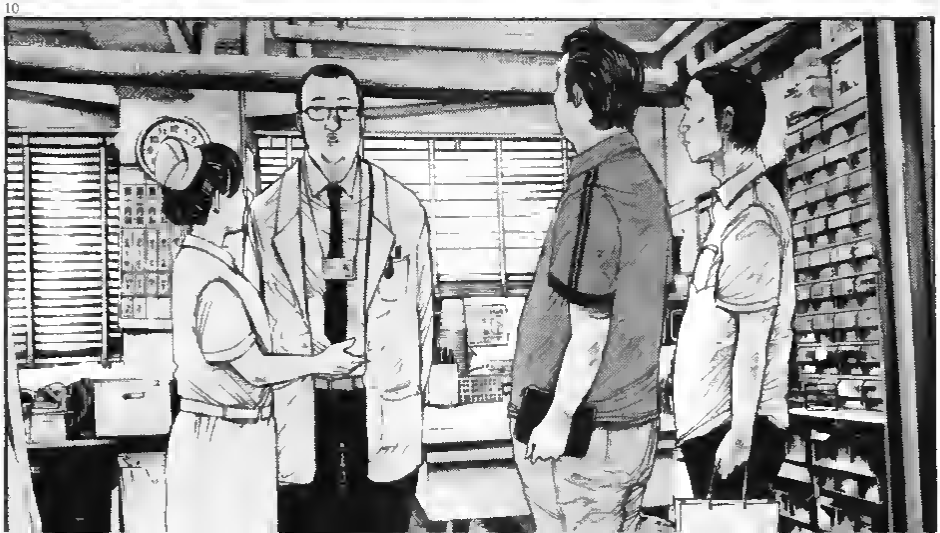
And if there are times you can't communicate your thoughts to others very well,
I'll be there to tell them in your place.

I'll be waiting.
I'll wait as long as it takes until then.

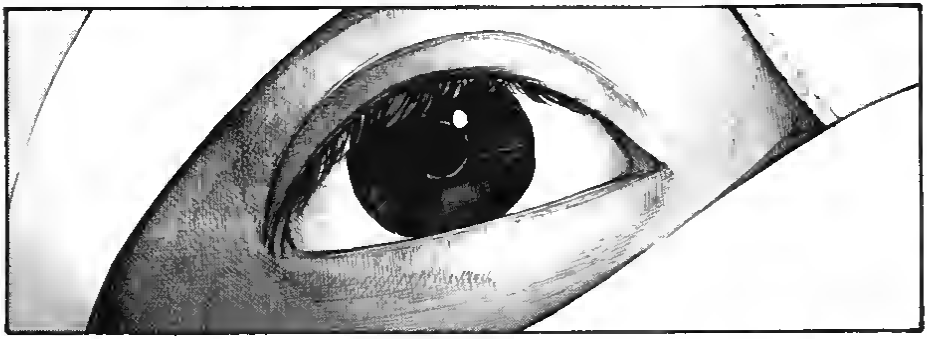
...I'll,
Come again tomorrow.

Excuse me, miss.
Are you a friend of Mr. Onodera?

We received a witness report of Mr. Onodera entering and leaving the house in which a murdered victim was later discovered...
Do you mind answering a few questions for us...?

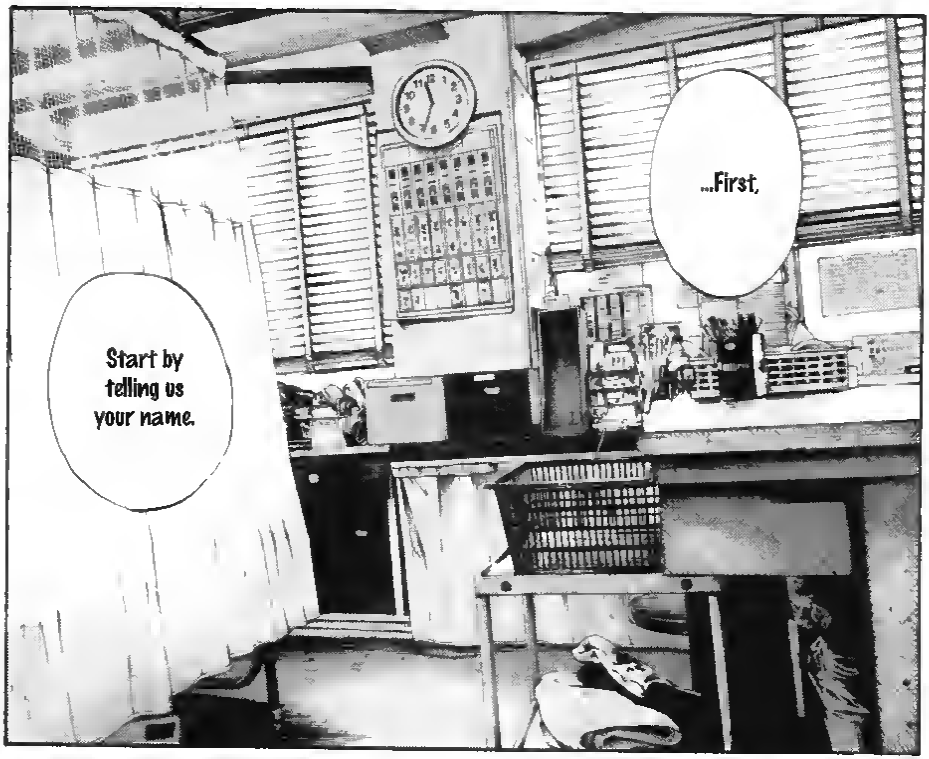


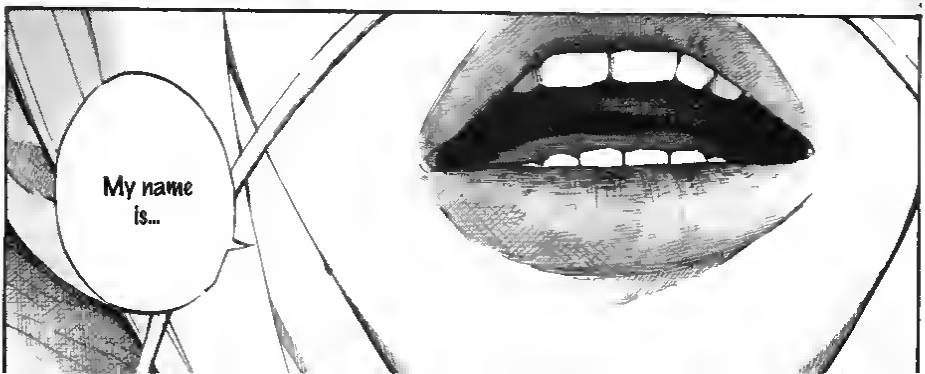
No, go ahead...



12

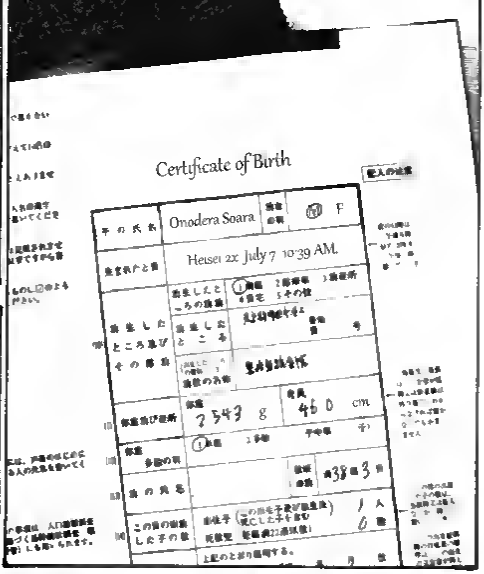
Since it's only been a day since your operation, we'll go easy today...


...First,
Start by telling us your name.


My name is...

総合病院

BOY!


Certificate of Birth
Onodera Soara
Heisei 2x July 7 10:39 AM.

LDR 1-LDR 8
NICU
Growing Care Unit
(GCU)

It's just as I thought...
Damn it...

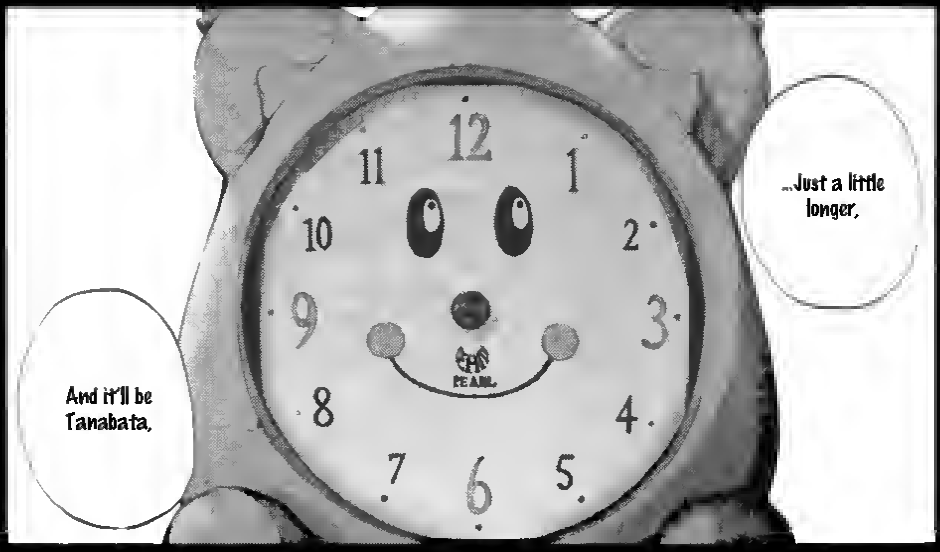
Onodera Soara
Date of Birth 20xx. July 7th
Time of Birth 10 39 P.M.
Weight. 2 543 g
Matern y Ward Head Shimaeri Room No 202

This is hope
isn't it...

GOODN-GHT PUNPUN 13 ASANO-N-O

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

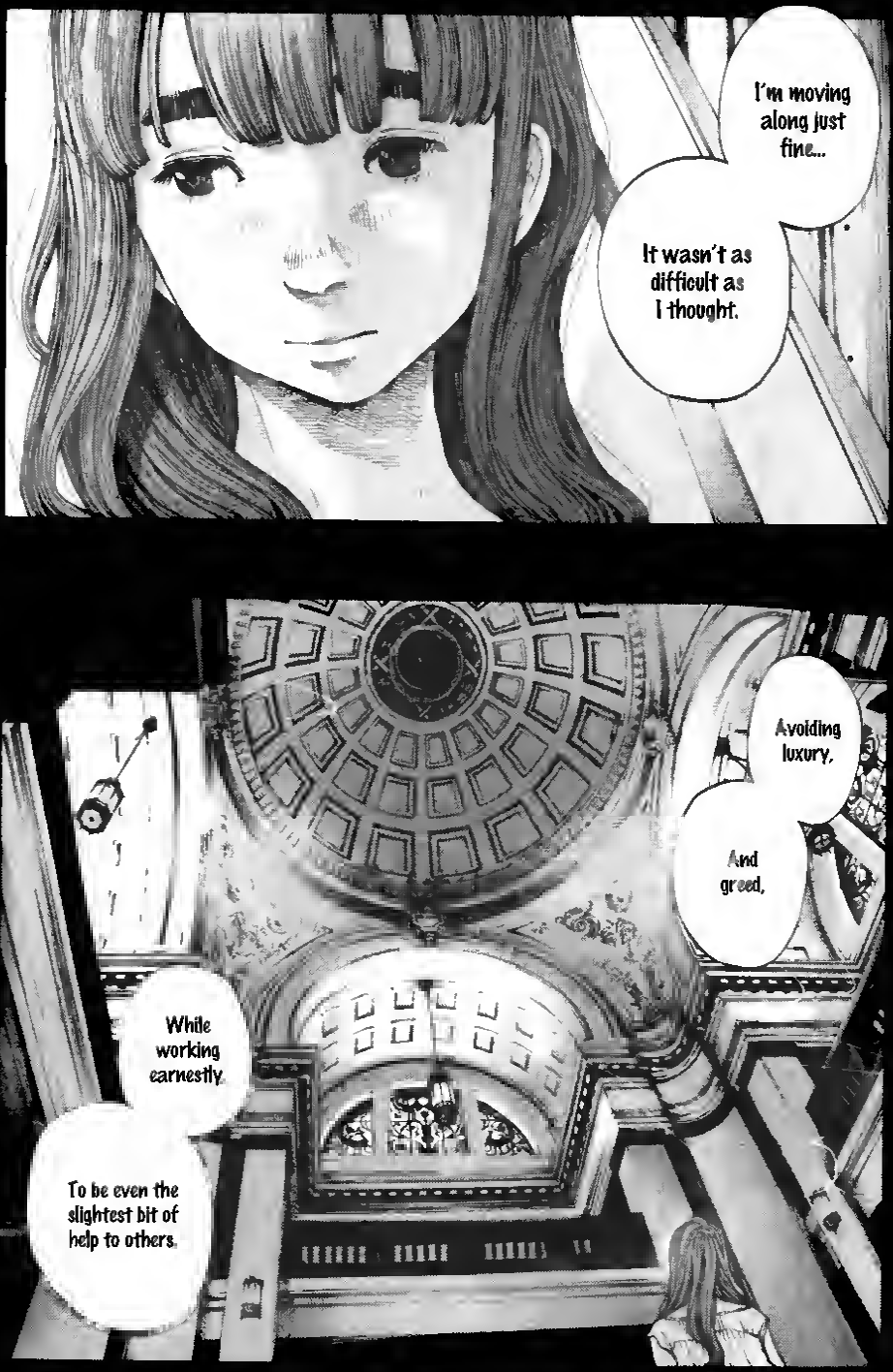
Chapter 145


...Just a little longer,
And it'll be Tanabata,

...Last year was no good,
But hopefully I can see the Milky Way this year.

Aiko.
It's been a while.
I've got a lot of things to report this year too.

My probation is now over.
And since last month, I've started working at the real estate agency that my former boss at Shishido Heights introduced me to.
It's a really plain job.
But I'm trying my hardest.
As for my mangaka friend
The paperback vol. 1 of her newest work, the one I helped out on, just came out so she's pretty happy.
And Mimura's getting married next year.
...Me and all the others are doing well.


I'm moving along just fine...
It wasn't as difficult as I thought.
Avoiding luxury,
And greed,
While working earnestly
To be even the slightest bit of help to others.

...And when I see those around me smiling,
I feel very relieved.
Since I don't have work tomorrow, maybe I'll go out somewhere.
...If I did have something I could call a worry.
It's the fact that my friend's daughter has grown so attached to me she thinks of me as her dad.

...Of course, I do think the child is better off having a father.
But I don't think that should be me.
...I'm fine being by myself.
That's the only selfish desire of mine.

It's very peaceful.
Like perhaps the life of a ghost.
Carefree and without worry.
I naturally let the wind take me forwards when it blows.
Exactly where I'm headed to—
is of no real concern to me.
But eventually when it's my time to leave, I'd like to vanish like an insignificant bubble.
And fade away from everyone's memories as well.

There are times when I look back,
To my childhood or the few months I spent with you,
But trying to put such fragmented and vague feelings into words is almost impossible.
...Rather pathetic, isn't it?
Though I don't like having to live with such feelings of shame.

It's the lone duty you've charged me with.
So I'll keep at it until the very end.
...Aiko.
I've been thinking...
About whether or not we really saw that Milky Way.
During that one time in our childhood...
Could it be that what we saw was just glorified by our imagination...?
That's what I wonder these days.

...These days your voice is a little faint
Aiko...
But perhaps your voice was always that way.
UNCLE MOOSE
Is that really how you looked?

"If you ever betray me again,
I'll kill you then."

Aiko,
I already know...
I already know you can no longer kill me.

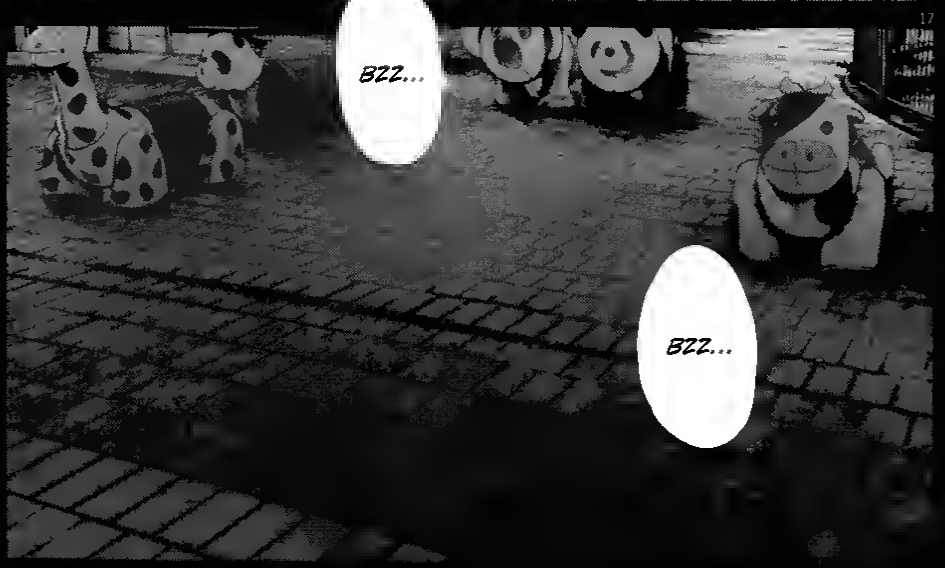
"You wouldn't lie, would you, Punpun?"

I'm sorry.
For being a liar.

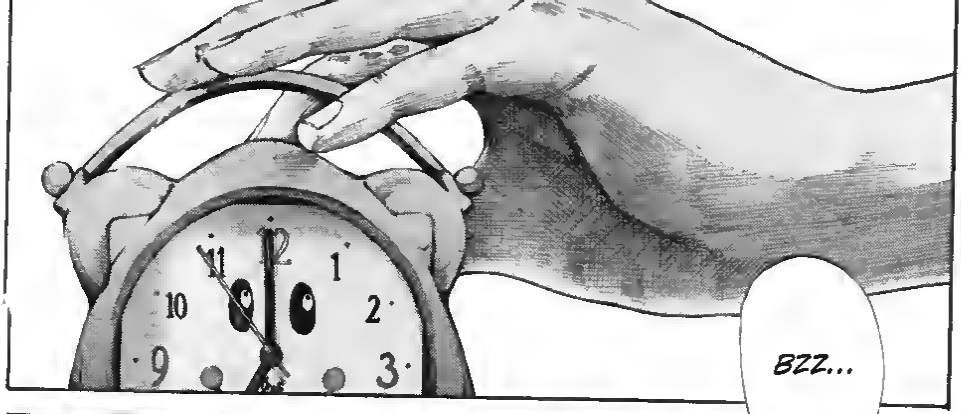
...I'm certain,
I won't be able to see the Milky Way this year or the next,
And all future Tanabata nights will be too cloudy.

...And yet the world won't end nor will humanity perish.
I have to keep on moving forwards...

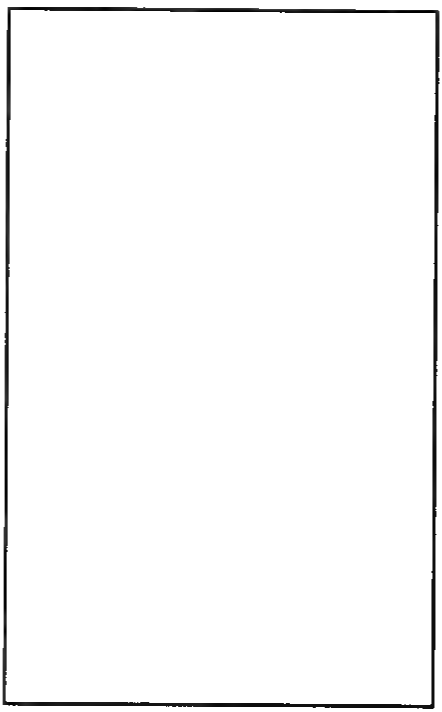
BZZZ...

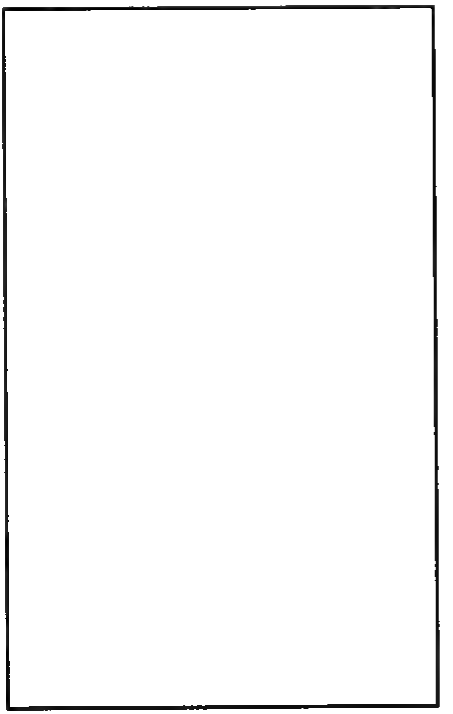


Good-bye.


BZZ...

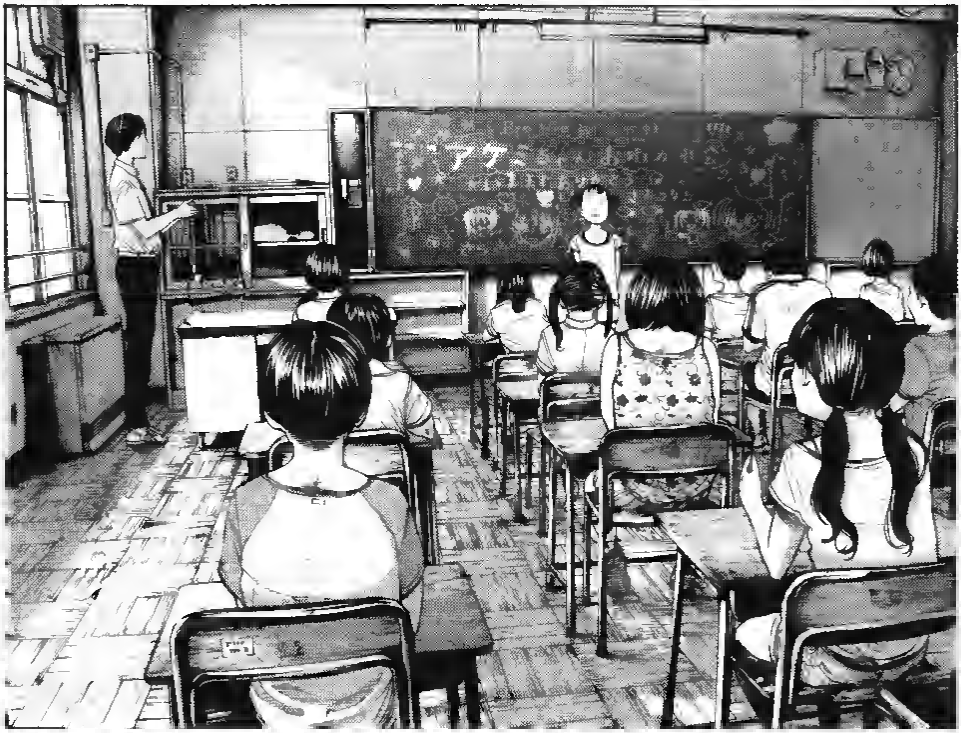
BZZ...

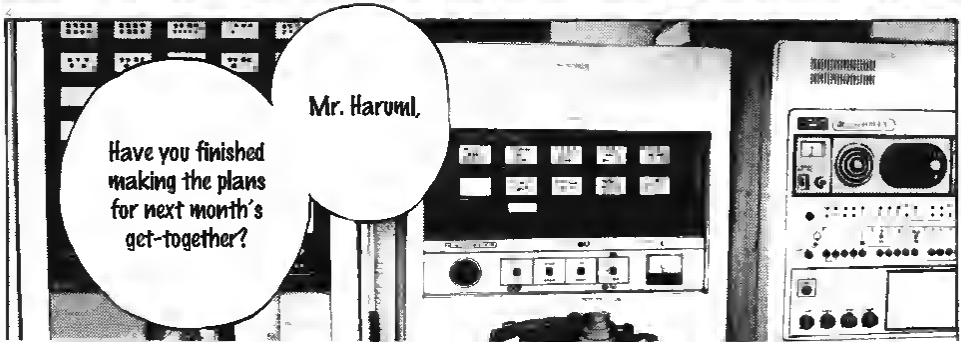




Chapter 146

I won't ever forget the time I've spent with you all.
Thank you for everything until now.



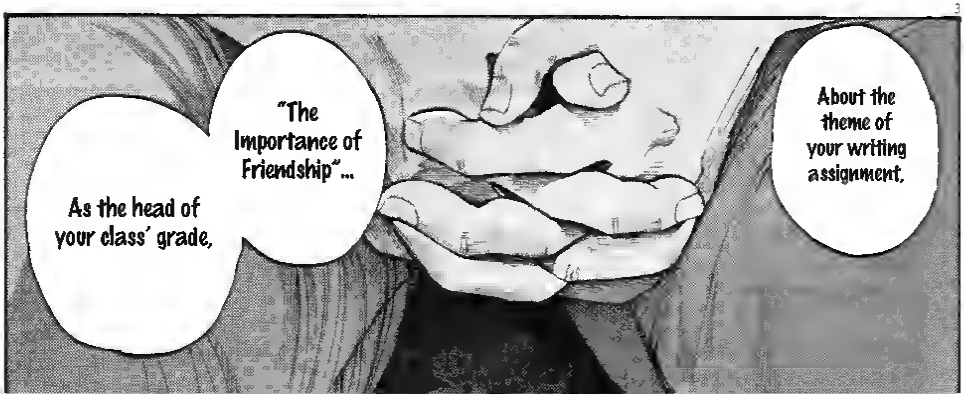

Mr. Haruml,
Have you finished making the plans for next month's get-together?

So how was it? Holding a farewell party for a student in your very first class, I mean.
...Ah, so you did.

Oh,
I actually sent the forms for it to you last weekend by e-mail.

Oh, you're so sensitive.
I have to say, I feel a little lonely now that she's gone...
It went well, but...

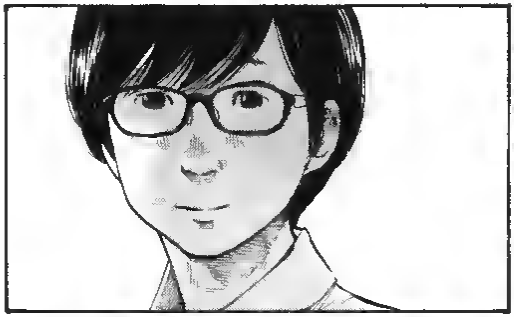
You really couldn't care less, am I right?
But deep down inside,

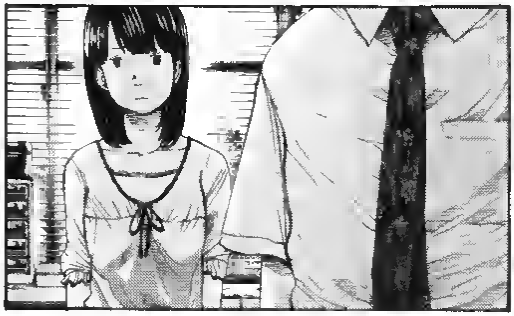

As the head of your class' grade,
"The Importance of Friendship"...
About the theme of your writing assignment,

Haven't you considered the possibility that a student who hasn't grown close with his classmates yet might be hurt by such a topic?
I must ask you to be more careful on such matters.
...With all due respect, Mr. Takahashi,

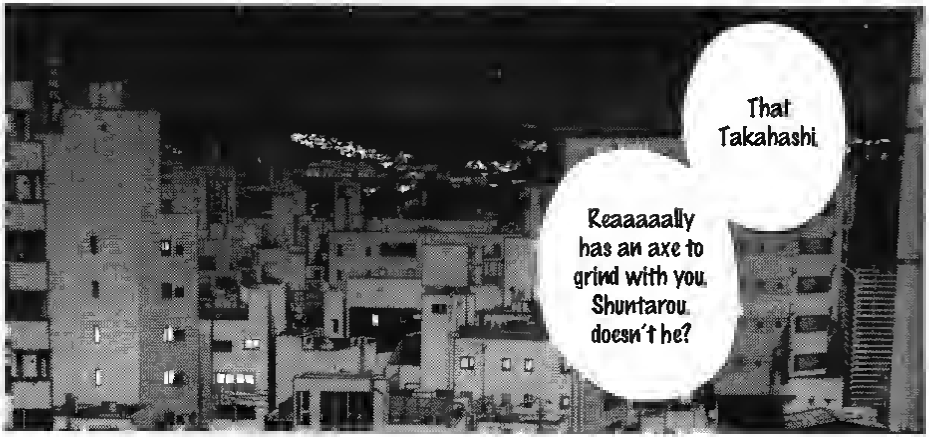
All the students in my class get along well with each other.
And I've received approval on that topic from their parents at the last parent-teacher's meeting.

Then...
How about, "Dreams for the Future?"
休館日
If you get too big-headed just because you're popular with the parents now, it may get cut off some time down the line.





...Yes, that's fair for everyone.
I approve it...


That Takahashi
Reaaaaally has an axe to grind with you, Shuntarou, doesn't he?

Well...
That just shows how serious he takes his work.

I can understand there being sensitivity towards that topic from the parents since the bullying problem a while back.
But I have my doubts whether "Dreams for the Future" is a really much fairer topic or not..
That Takahashi fusses too much over one thing while ignoring other points!

...Then what're you having the kids in your class write about?

...I mean, everyone comes from different family backgrounds with its own circumstances.
So forcing the students to think about their future can be problematic in its own way.
Shuntarou, you're too agreeable with people!

"The most recent time you showed bravery."
Oh, I see...

It's just an assignment to help improve their writing skills.
The topic's not important though.
Ah! You just scoffed at me, didn't you!?
No, no, I'm just impressed by how well it fits you...

Hey, you're purposely changing the topic, aren't you?
Ah
Thanks for collecting all these stuff to throw out for me, by the way

...It's fine if I throw all those stuff out, right?
Yeah, I found a lot of stuff while cleaning up...
This takes me back...
Oh, if it isn't my old high school notebook...
04 REC

...Yeah.
I don't need them anymore.

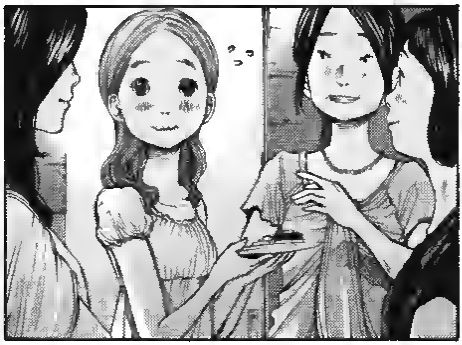
...Don't forget.
We're going out to try the dress next Sunday.

How could I forget?
I'm really looking forward to it.

At the recent dinners we've had together with my folks,
It seems like you and my parents are now getting along,
But even they're just pretending they can understand young people,
So don't go thinking that you can maintain your place forever just by putting on a smile.

Oh my gosh!
You came, Harumi!
Sono! Harumi's here!

Yeah...
I think you grew a little too tall there, Komatsu.
Yeah, I was already over 190cm back in high school.



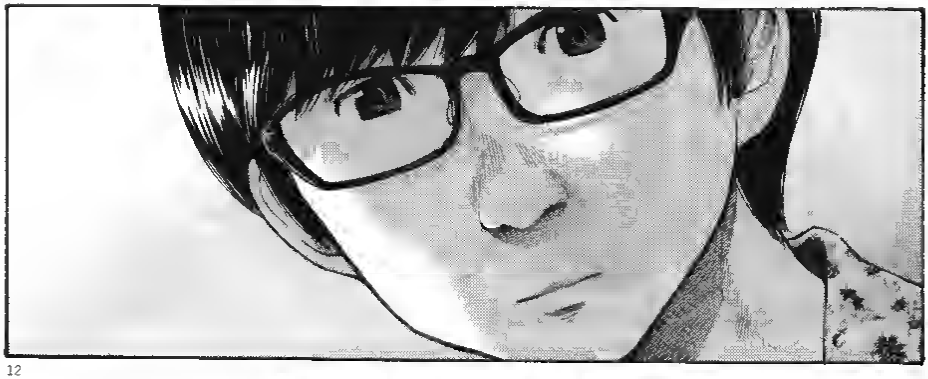
Yo, Harumin!
It's been a while, hasn't it?

Thanks for calling me up, Seki..
It was pretty hard finding your contact info, y'know?
Heeey.
I thought for sure you wouldn't come.

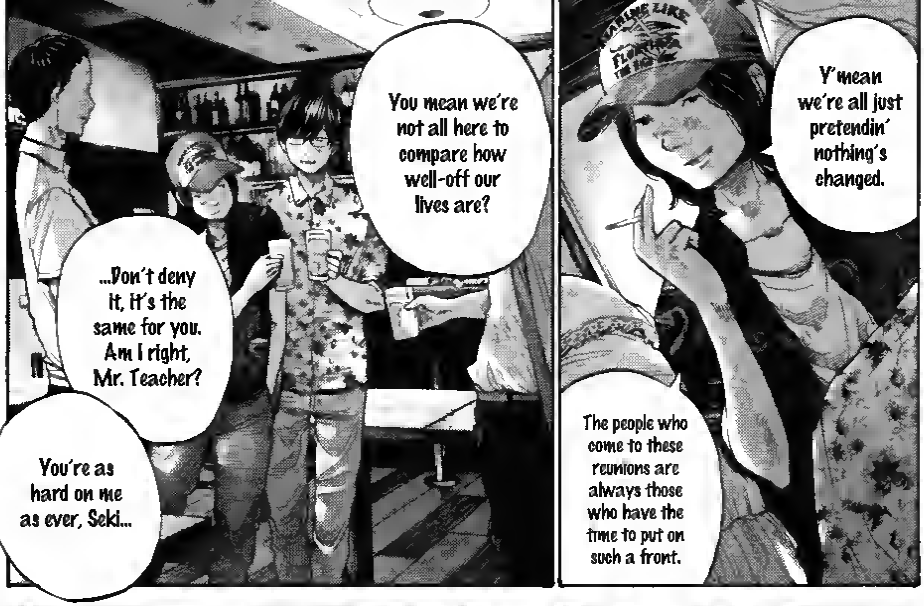
*Sign reads: Elementary School Reunion

小学
卒業
同窓会
Oh. Shimizu? He was busy with this other thing so he couldn't make it.
He's working as a nurse these days, while I'm running the lunchbox store with my old man.
...Where's that other guy?
You know, the boy who was always with you...

Recommended Snacks
生ビール
メロンのオーブン焼き



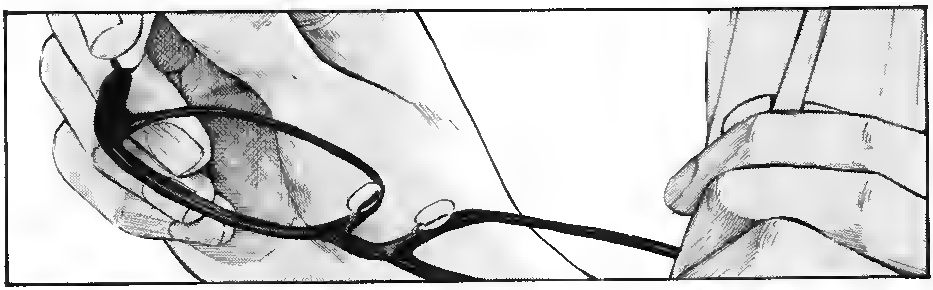
..This sure is nostalgic.
It seems like nothing's changed for everyone....


You mean we're not all here to compare how well-off our lives are?
...Don't deny it, it's the same for you. Am I right, Mr. Teacher?
You're as hard on me as ever, Seki...
Y'mean we're all just pretendin' nothing's changed.
The people who come to these reunions are always those who have the time to put on such a front.

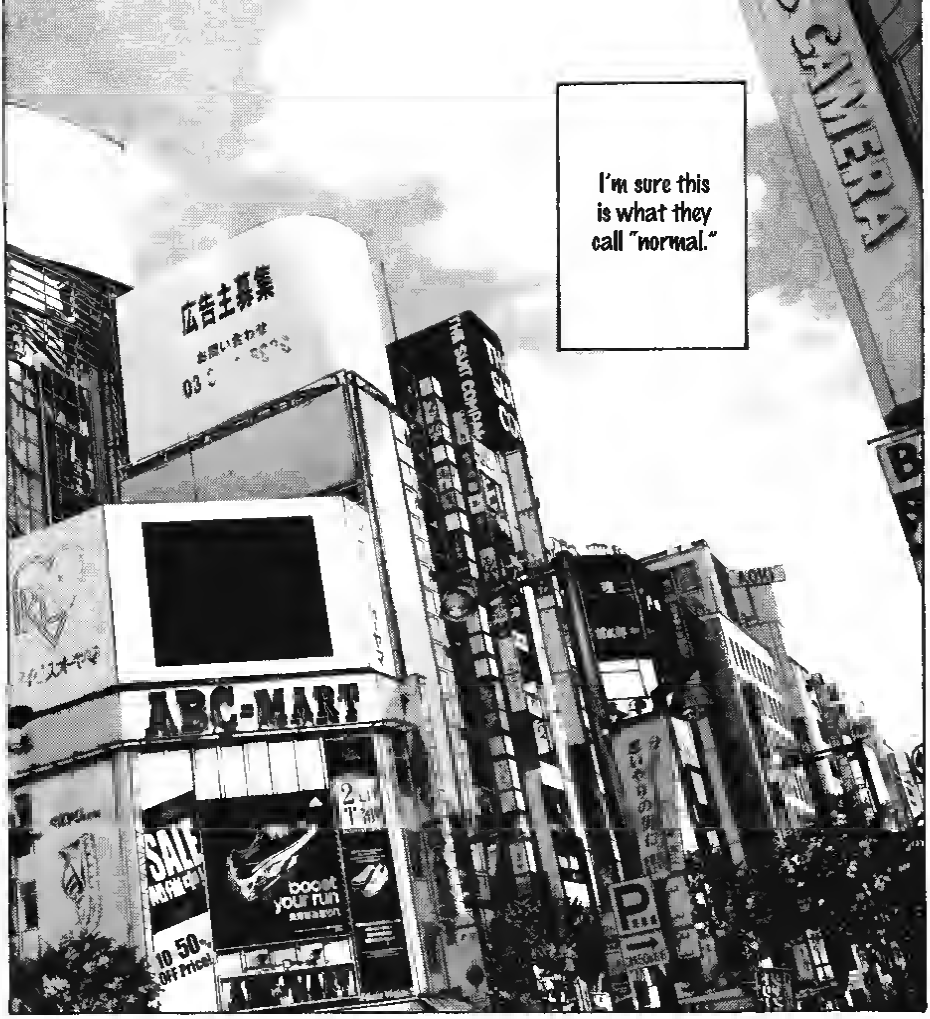
You two are a perfect pair.
Oh, no, not at all...
He's a very kind person.
...Kind is all he is.

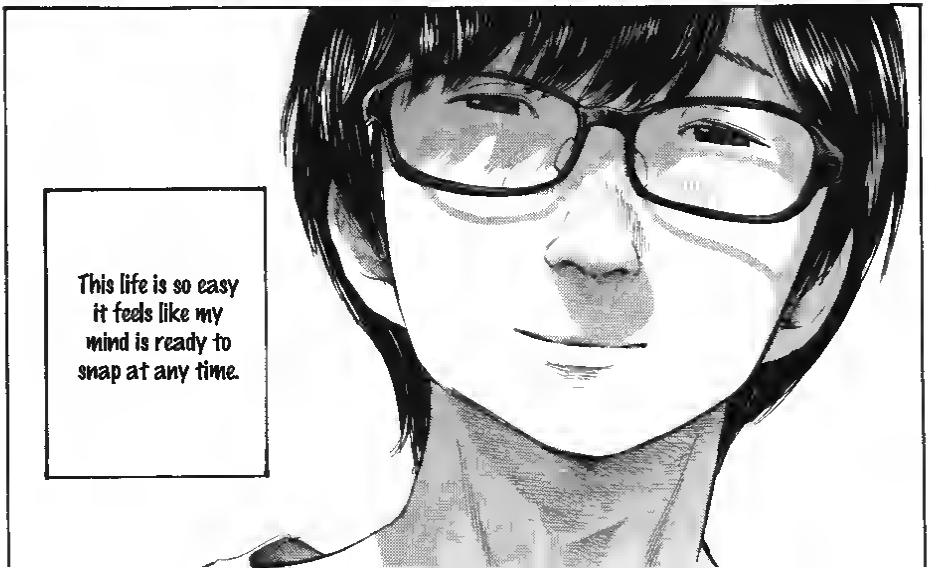
...Shuntarou.

...Why?
I'm not bored at all...
If you're bored,
...Sorry, but I'd like to have some time to think alone.
You're free to go take a walk outside.



16

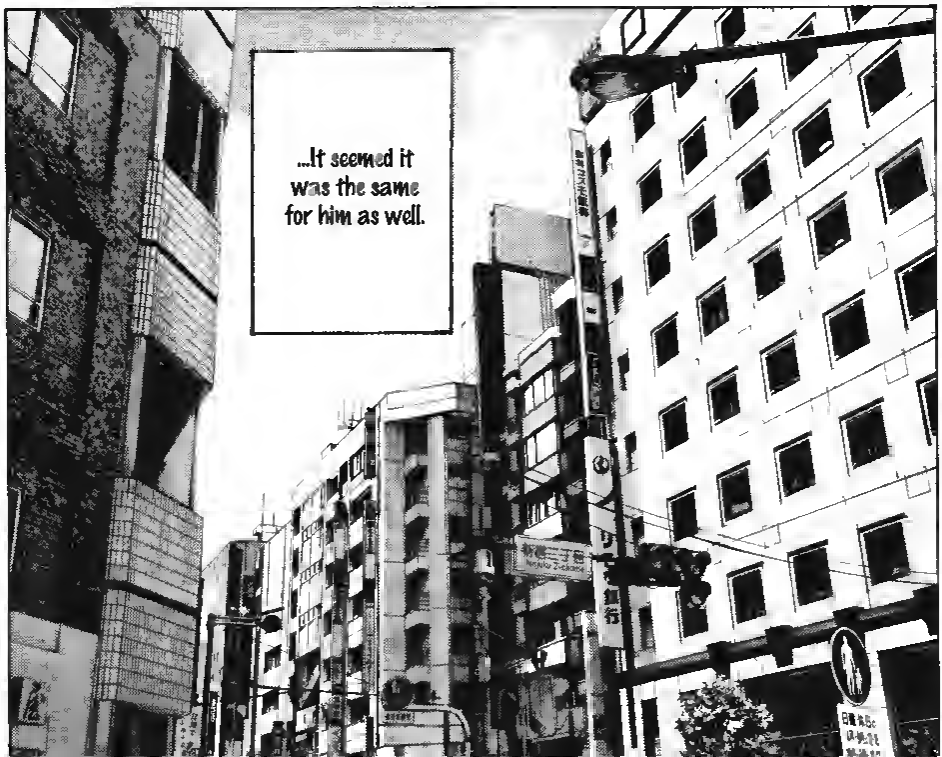

I'm sure this is what they call "normal."
広告主募集
ABC-MART
SALE
boost your run

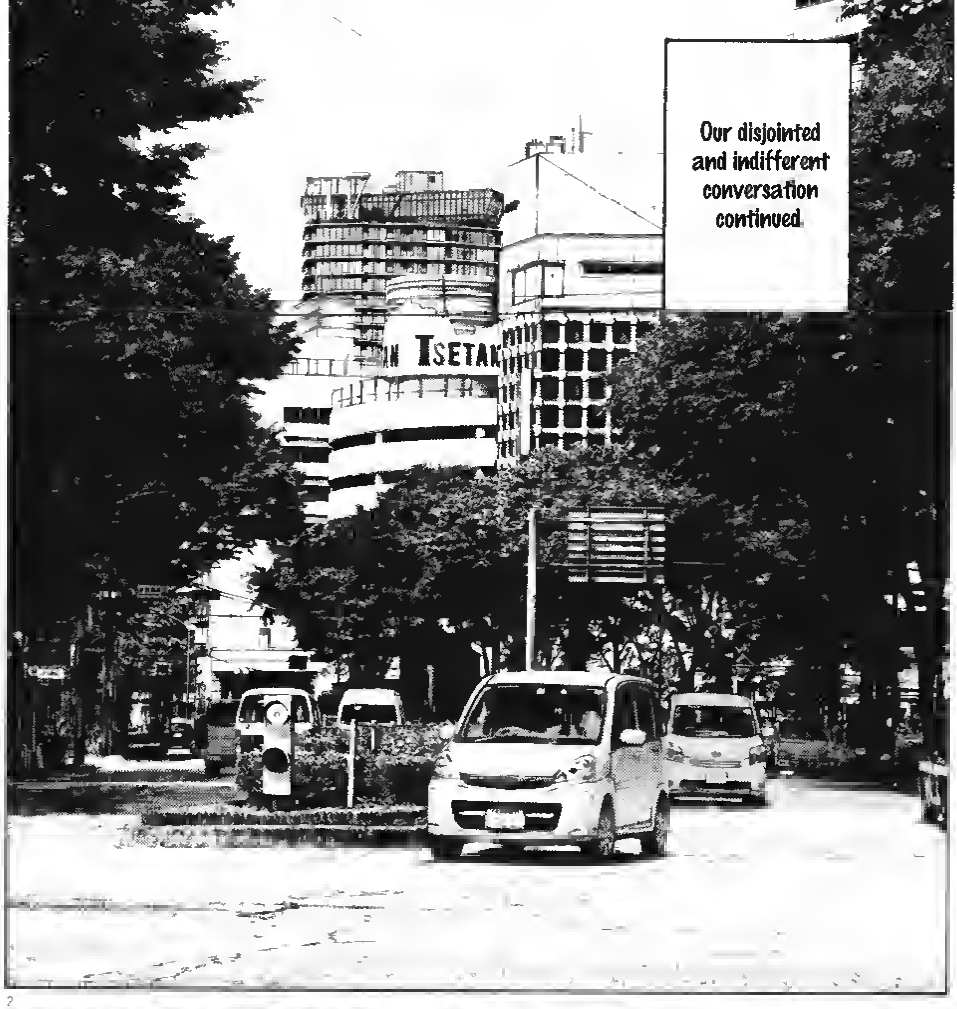

This life is so easy it feels like my mind is ready to snap at any time.

This year's Tanabata's been predicted to be on a clear day despite being in the midst of the rainy season.
I suddenly felt that I had to kill someone, so I started strolling through the streets teeming with shoppers.

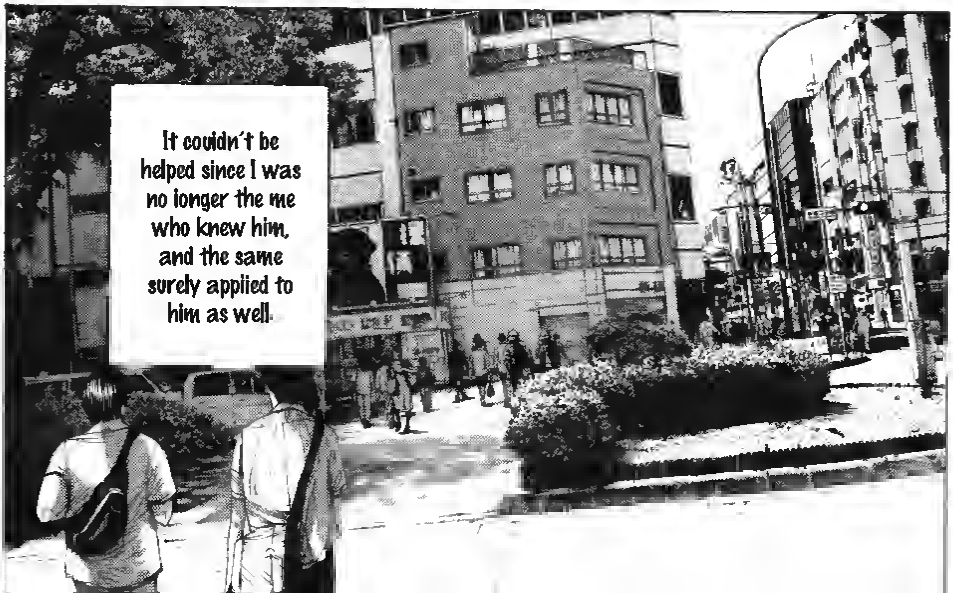
...That was when I met him again

Glancing at his general physique, he appeared every bit as just another adult.
But when our eyes met, I knew it was him without a doubt.


...It seemed it was the same for him as well.


Our disjointed and indifferent conversation continued.

2

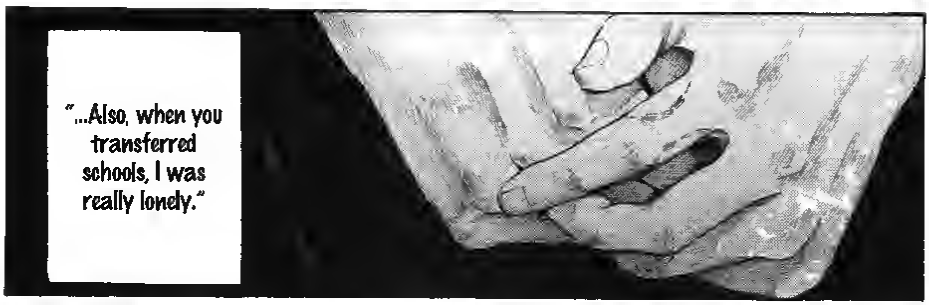

It couldn't be helped since I was no longer the me who knew him, and the same surely applied to him as well.

By the time the conversation topic changed to the weather,
Perhaps both of us realized that fact, for we felt it was time to separate.

After a momentary silence
He said there was something he's been meaning to tell me for the longest time.

"The porno-video we called EBJ was actually EVJ."

As I thought.
"Is that what's been on your mind all this time?"
in my mind,
he continued...


"...Also, when you transferred schools, I was really lonely."

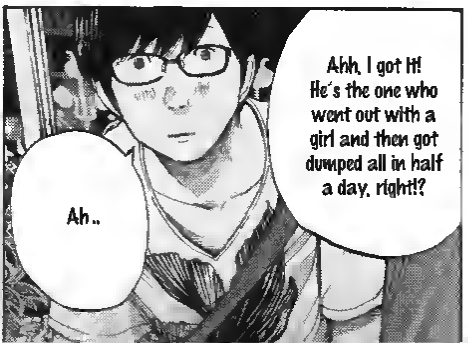
...I had felt the same way.
But even with that said, there was nothing the two of us back then could really do about it.

Hey.

Don't go around loitering on your own, you jackass.

Alright, let's go!
We were all looking for you!

Huh?
He's your old classmate from elementary school?

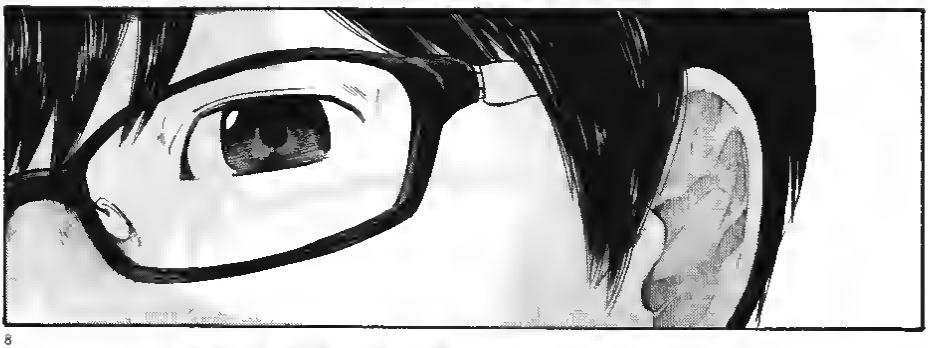

Ah..
Ahh, I got it! He's the one who went out with a girl and then got dumped all in half a day, right!?

I also felt no particular need to ask him about the wound on his left-eye.

But his expression told me that wasn't the case. Still, I did not wish to inquire further.

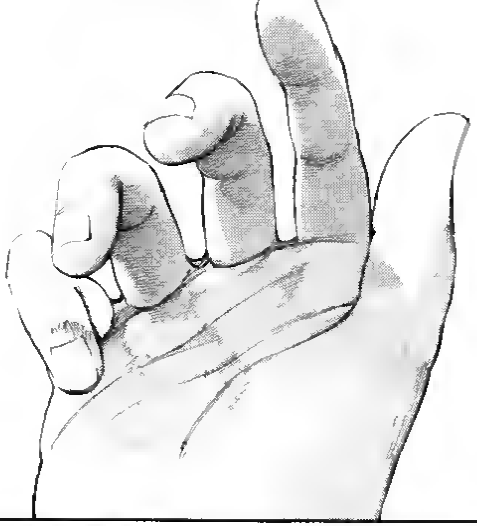
As we separated, I commented, "Oh, so you're married."

After all, you and I are already...



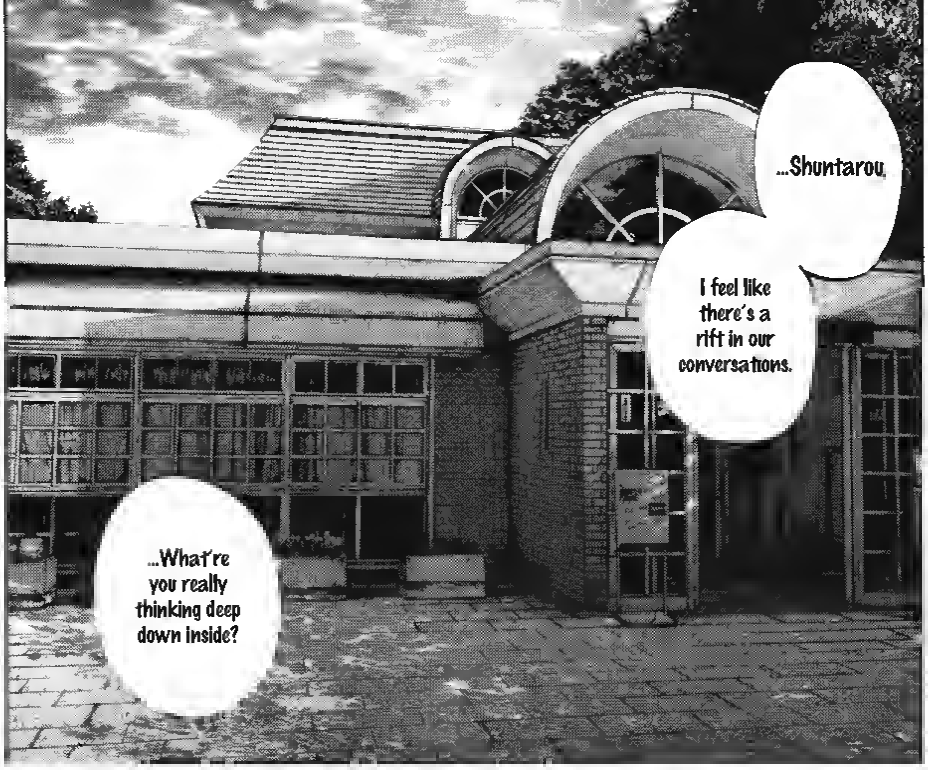
歩行者専用
自転車専用

I knew in the corner of my mind that I would surely never meet him again.



...As I said, "See you again."

Even until the very last moment, I still couldn't recall his name.


...Shuntarou
I feel like there's a rift in our conversations.
...What're you really thinking deep down inside?

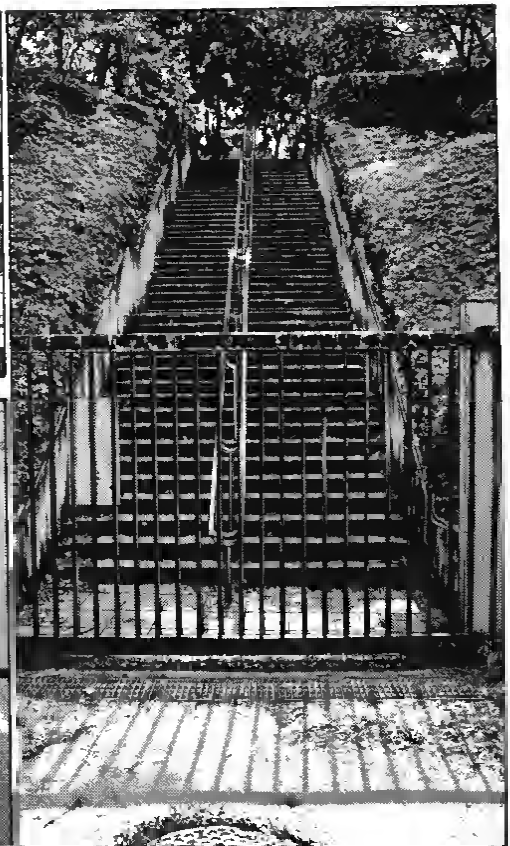
I...

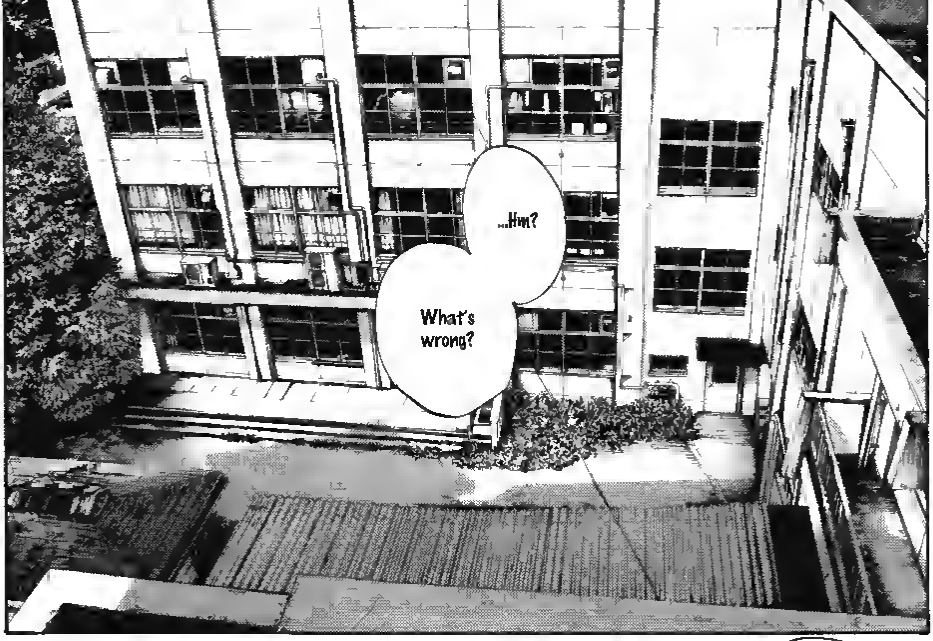
Are you saying...
You're prepared to accept all of me...?

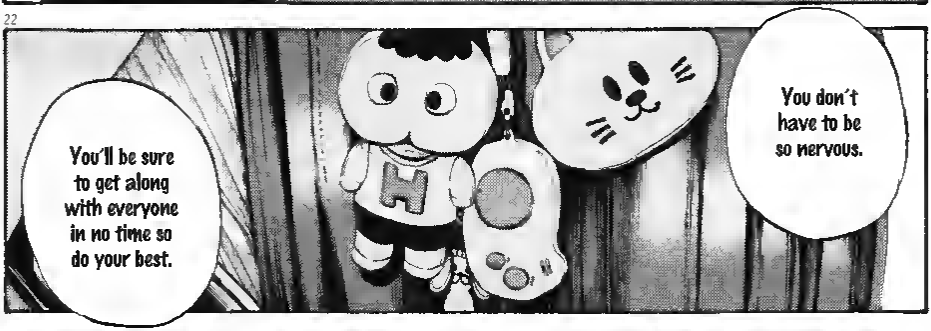
But I just...
I know there're some things,
I just can't forgive Takahashi's abuse...!
That're better off not asked...

Are you serious?
Wait, what!?
You're still dragging out that topic!?

...You know even I get annoyed every now and then.
He's... A real asshole...
Right, you hate him too, don't you!?
If I'm the only one who hates him, then I'd be that one bitch who hates people for no good reason and I don't wanna be that kind of person...




...Hm?
What's wrong?

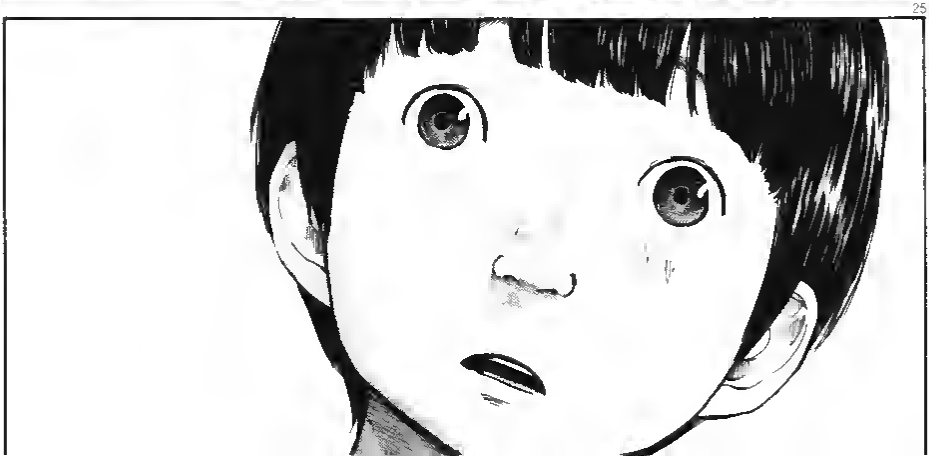

You don't have to be so nervous.
You'll be sure to get along with everyone in no time so do your best.

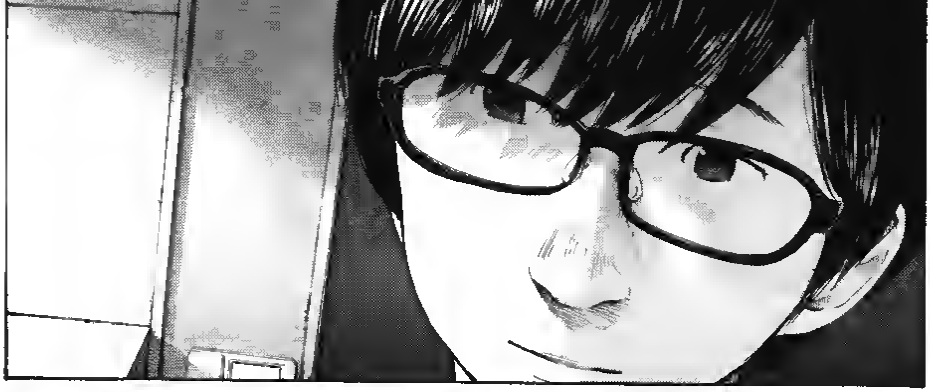
...That's the same thing.
The teacher at my last school said

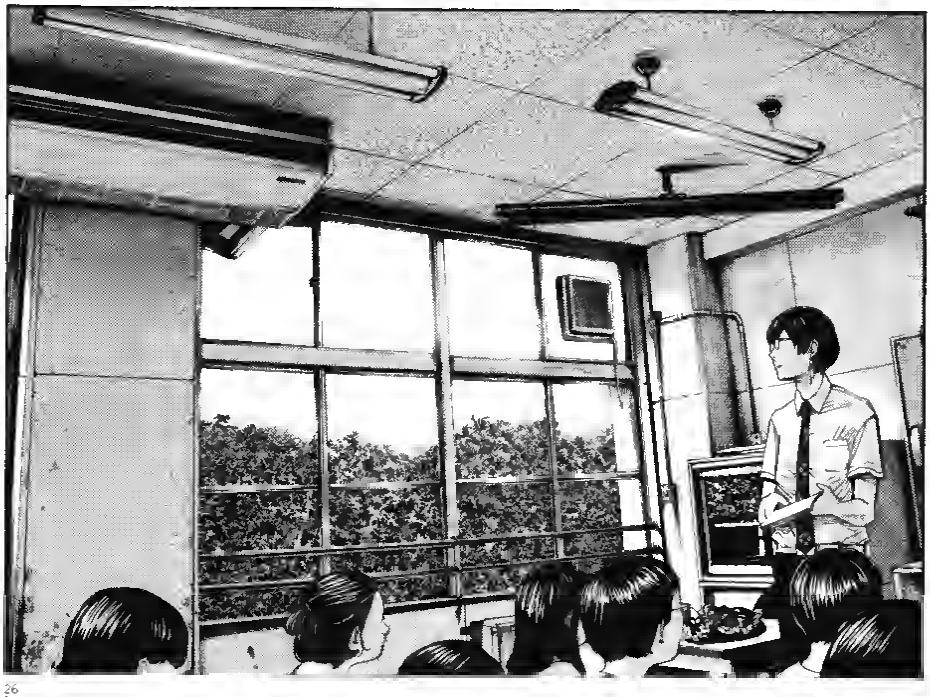
You're right.
I don't know you right now, and to be frank, I don't have any particular interest in you as of yet.
However, I'm being truthfully serious when I tell you to do your best.
...I don't need such easy-going encouragements.
It's not as if you know anything about me.
I'll do anything for your sake as your teacher.
So learn to rely more on adults.

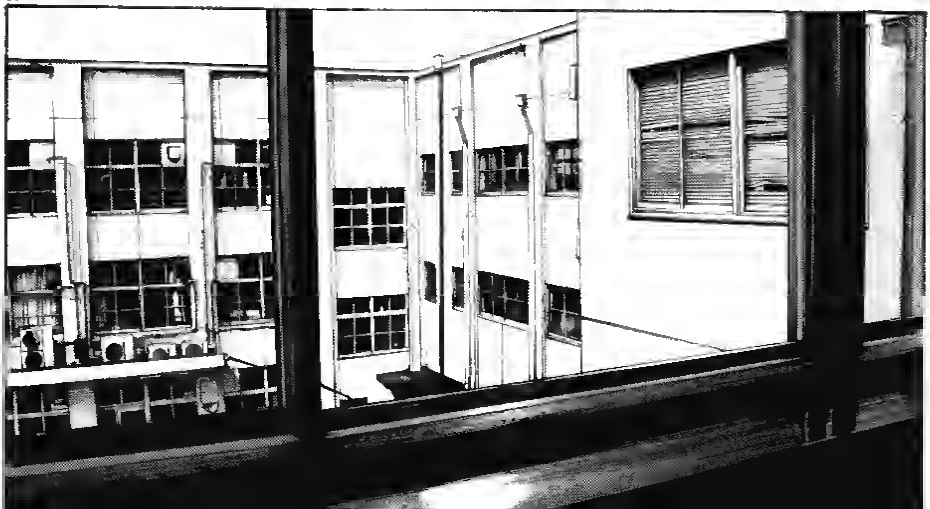
My name is Sasazuka Moe.
I moved from Edogawa.

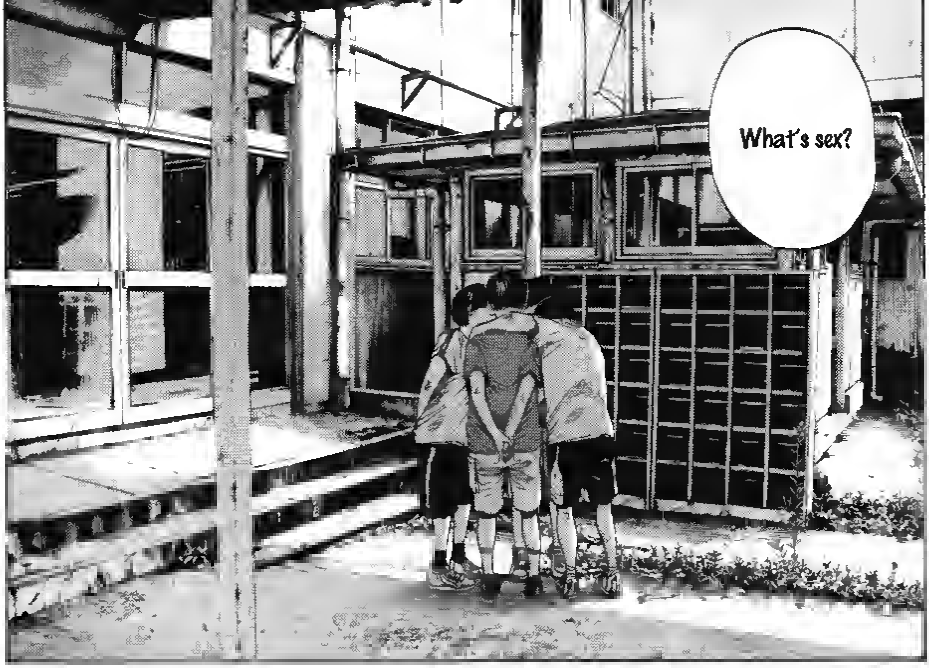
Well, now that we have our new student...
Alright then,










What's sex?

What was normal again...?

...Hey, did ya know?
Humanity's going to go extinct.

Goodnight Punpun ⓭

Asano Inio

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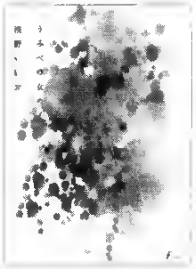
（2003-2013）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[おやすみプンプン]⑬
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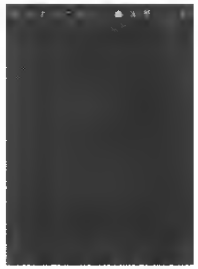
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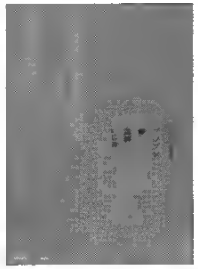
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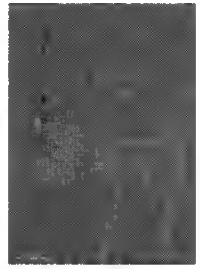
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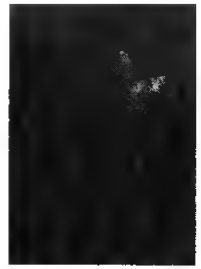
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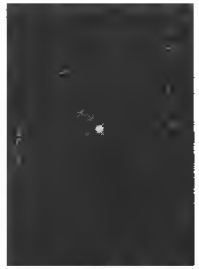
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[おやすみプンプン]⑧
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[おやすみプンプン]⑤
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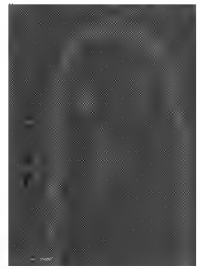
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浅野いにお

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主な著作に『素晴らしい世界』
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『ソラニン』（全2巻　小社刊）が
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